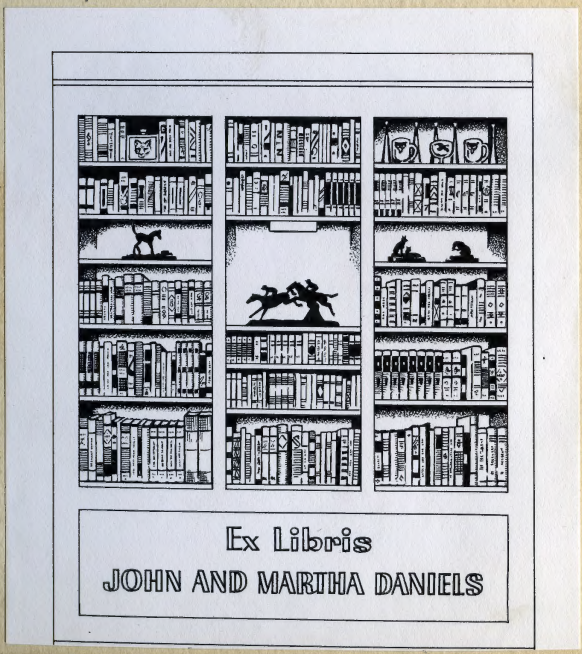
RARE UNRECORDED EDITION

NOT IN SCHWERER.

Iain Sinclair

20.XI.61

Williamina E.H. Keith-Falconer
The Garth Bicester
April 1913.



ESSAYS

ON

HUNTING:

CONTAINING A

PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY into the Nature and Properties of the SCENT;

AND

OBSERVATIONS on the different Kinds of HOUNDS, with the Manner of training them.

ALSO

DIRECTIONS for the Choice of a HUNTER; the QUALIFICATIONS requisite for a HUNTSMAN; and other GENERAL RULES to be observed in every Contingency incident to the CHACE.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTION, describing the Method of HARE-HUNTING, practised by the GREEKS.

Οὑτω δὲ ἐπιχαρὲς ἐστι το θηρίον, ὥστε ἰδεῖς ὅτις οὐκ ἂν ἰδών ἰχνευόμενον, ἐφιστάμενον, μεταβαίνομενον, ἁλισκόμενον ἐπιλάθοιτ' ἂν εἴτε ἐρωτ.

XENOPH. Cyneg.

My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind.
So flew'd, so sanded, and their heads are hung
With ears that sweep away the morning dew;
Crook-knee'd, and dew-lap'd, like Thessalian bulls;
Slow in pursuit, but match'd in mouth like bells;
Each under each. A cry more tuneable
Was never hallo'd to, nor cheer'd with horn.

SHAKESPEARE's Midsummer Night's Dream.

A NEW EDITION:

With a SUPPLEMENT, containing an ACCOUNT of the VIZIER'S Manner of HUNTING in the MOGUL EMPIRE.

By WILLIAM BLANE, Esq.

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MDCCLXXXVIII.

PREFACE

By the EDITOR;

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE

GRECIAN Method of Hare-hunting.

FROM XENOPHON.

THE following Eſſays were given me, many years ago, by a Gentleman, equally converſant with the ſtudy of Natural Hiſtory and the Diverſions of the Field, as a ſingular Curioſity, which had accidentally fallen into his hands. Having ſhewn them to moſt of my ſporting Friends, I found them

very desirous of having copies; and imagining, as they give an account of a very popular and manly amusement, and investigate its nature and principles, many other Lovers of the Chace may be pleased with them, I am induced to lay them before the Public in this manner.

I know the literary and speculative part of Mankind are apt to consider these kind of country diversions in a contemptible light; and, perhaps, they may be inclined to despise any person who shall devote his time to the writing, or even the reading, of a single page, on a subject which they may think only deserving the attention of Grooms, Country 'Squires, and Dog-boys. But this opinion is by no means founded on reason.

A healthy frame of body is to the full as necessary for our happiness as a sound disposition of mind. The Roman Satirist

joins

joins them together in his prayer, and, indeed, the latter is never perfectly attainable without the former. Now to gain this in a compleat manner, more exercise is certainly requisite than the tasked hour of walking or riding, which the Man of Literature or Business with difficulty persuades himself to snatch from his favorite employments. This may, indeed, just suffice to keep off the dreadful consequences which must inevitably attend an entirely sedentary life; but will never give that state of robust, and if you will, of rude health, which no one who ever enjoyed will ever affect to despise.

Besides tho' the Middle-aged and the Phlegmatic may prevail on themselves to take these regular airings, the Young and the Sanguine must have some active enjoyment to call them forth; for they never will quit the most trifling, or even vicious pursuit, that engages their atten-

tion within doors, unleſs they have ſome other equally intereſting to call them to the field.

But rural diverſions, when followed in a liberal manner, (for I do not wiſh to renew the almoſt extinguiſhed breed of mere hunting 'Squires,) are particularly uſeful in this iſland, where, from the nature of our government, no man can be of conſequence without ſpending a large portion of his time in the country, and every additional inducement to this mode of life is an additional ſecurity to our freedom and independence *. I much queſtion whether our morals, or even our manners, are greatly improved

* With all due defference to modern Patriotiſm, I humbly conceive it impoſſible for him, who is not individually free and independent, to be politically ſo, and individual freedom and independence never yet fell to the lot of extravagance, luxury, and diſſipation.

by

by that ſtyle of living, which empties our country ſeats to fill the metropolis, or the large provincial towns; and whether the manly character that once diſtinguiſhed the Engliſhman has not ſuffered more on the ſide of firmneſs and integrity, than it has gained on that of politeneſs and elegance, by ſacrificing the rough ſports of the Field to the ſofter amuſements of the Aſſembly and Card Table.

I know the Laws which are in force to preſerve thoſe Animals which are the objects of this diverſion, are ſeverely attacked by the ſentimental Novel Writers of the preſent time. Writers who, without invention, humour, or real knowledge of mankind, dreſs up ſome improbable tale with affected maxims of fine feeling, and exquiſite ſenſibility, and endea-

endeavour to weaken the hearts, enflame the paſſions, and miſlead the underſtandings of the riſing generation. Theſe abound with horrid ſtories of the young and ingenuous Peaſant torn from his weeping Parents, and his diſtracted Bride, and either hurried into a loathſome dungeon, or baniſhed to an unhealthy climate, only for the murder of a Hare or a Partridge. But I will venture to ſay, there is hardly a Day-laborer in the kingdom that may not, in a reaſonable manner, be indulged with the uſe of theſe animals by a proper application; and if he is fond of the diverſion they afford, and chuſes to be idly buſy rather than induſtriouſly ſo, he may perfectly ſatisfy himſelf by attending the Hounds or Greyhounds of the 'Squire, or aſſiſting the Game-keeper with his gun. But that Laws ſhould be made to prevent the man, whoſe family depends entirely on his

his labor for ſupport, from quitting his flail, his plough, or his ſpade, to range the woods for the deſtruction of animals, which afford a noble and manly diverſion to their Proprietor, I can conceive no more inconſiſtent with juſtice, than that he ſhould be prevented from entering the orchard or the hen-rooſt. As the beaſts of the foreſt and the fruits of the ſoil are equally common in a ſtate of nature, ſo I ſee no reaſon why they may not be equally appropriated in a ſtate of civil ſociety. And I appeal to any perſon really converſant in theſe kind of facts, if he knows a ſingle inſtance of one of thoſe men, commonly called Poachers, whoſe profeſſion is a violation of the Game Laws, and againſt whom alone they are ever executed with any ſeverity, whoſe character and ſufferings could entitle him to a tear, even from that moſt ſenti-

ſentimental of all ſentimental Heroes *, *The Man of Feeling* himſelf.

While I am thus defending the general principle of our Game Laws, I do not mean to ſtand forth as their Champion in every reſpect; they want great alteration as to the objects both of their penalties † and exemptions, and I am happy to learn from every reſpectable information that they are ſoon likely to receive it from the wiſdom and authority of Parliament.

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* This Gentleman, drawn as a pattern of peculiar milkineſs of diſpoſition, is betrayed once into the following bitter imprecations:

" Curſes on his narrow heart, that could violate a " right ſo ſacred. Heaven blaſt the wretch!

" And from his derogate body never ſpring
" A babe to honor him!——"

And what are the ſacred rights whoſe cruel violation has drawn ſuch heavy curſes from ſo mild a boſom? Why the 'Squire of the pariſh " pulled down an old cottage, " that had been a ſchool, to open his proſpect;" and " plowed up a green where the boys uſed to play, becauſe " they hurt the fence on the other ſide of it."

† That a man of one hundred pounds a year may deſtroy the Game with impunity on any one's land, and that a perſon of ninety-nine ſhall be liable to pay five pounds for killing a Hare on his own, is a ſoleciſm too evident to need a comment.

But

But there are other perſons whoſe ſuffrages I am very deſirous of obtaining, that may be inclined to look with diſdain on a Work that treats chiefly of Hare-hunting, and ſeems to give it the preference to all the diverſions of the ſame kind. I mean the noble fraternity of Fox-hunters. As a Sportſman, I would carefully deprecate the reſentment of ſo reſpectable a body, nor preſume to defend the Author of the following Letters, in queſtioning the allowed ſuperiority of Fox-hunting over the humbler ſports of of the Hare-chaſe. But, as the Author of the firſt of theſe Treatiſes juſtly obſerves, in many inſtances the various kinds of hunting are cloſely connected, and whatever be the game purſued, every Huntſman is equally intereſted in the breeding and education of the Hound, the nature of the ſcent, and the general rules of the chace. And, perhaps, both the Active and the Literary may pay ſome

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difference to opinions backed by the authority of ſo reſpectable a name as that of Xenophon, who did not diſdain to write a Treatiſe on Hunting. Though he conſiders that exerciſe as a proper ſchool for forming the warrior, he evidently gives the preference to Hare-hunting. Speaking of the Hare, he avows his attachment to the pleaſure of hunting her in theſe ſtrong expreſſions, which are yet ſtronger in the original *. *This animal is ſo pleaſing, that who-ever ſees it, either trailed, or found, or purſued, or taken, forgets every thing elſe that he is moſt attached to.*

I have been, indeed, aſtoniſhed in reading the *Cynegeticos* of Xenophon, to

* See the Greek motto in the title page. Mr. Somerville bears the ſame teſtimony in favor of Hare-hunting, when he particularly applies the following lines to the enthuſiaſm of that ſport:

"Where are their ſorrows, diſappointments, wrongs,
"Vexations, ſickneſs, cares? All, all are gone,
"And with the panting winds lag far behind."

find

find the accurate knowledge that great man had of the nature of the Hare, and the method of hunting her, and to obſerve one of the fineſt Writers, the braveſt Soldiers, the ableſt Politicians, the wiſeſt Philoſophers, and the moſt virtuous Citizens of antiquity, ſo intimately acquainted with all the niceties and difficulties of purſuing this little animal, and deſcribing them with a preciſion, that would not diſgrace the oldeſt Sportſman of Great Britain, who never had any other idea interfere to perplex his reſearches.

As I think no tranſlation of Xenophon's Treatiſe on Hunting has appeared in our language, the Reader may not be diſpleaſed to ſee that part of it which bears an immediate relation to the ſubject of theſe Eſſays. I ſhall, therefore, lay before him a Deſcription of the Greek

manner of Hare-hunting * extracted from that Writer, which I am the more induced to, as it will confute the assertion of Mr. Somerville, in his Preface to the CHACE, that *the Antients had no notion of pursuing wild beasts by the scent only.* I readily agree with him, that *they had no idea of a regular and well disciplined pack of Hounds*; but though, as † he and his learned Friend remark; Oppian describes a particular sort of Dog, which he calls ἰχνευτῆρες, as finding the Game only, and following the scent no farther than the Hare's seat; and says, that after he has started her, she is pursued by the sight; yet this extract from Xenophon will shew, that much earlier than the time of

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* Some quotations from Xenophon's Cynegeticos, the Reader will find in the notes on the subsequent Essays.

† See the Preface to Somerville's Chace.

Oppian,

Oppian, they not only * trailed to the Hare by the ſcent, but abſolutely depended on that alone to purſue her flight in caſe ſhe eſcaped the nets; for the death of the Game being the chief object of the chace in the woody and mountainous regions of Greece, it muſt be acknowledged that Xenophon adviſes means to accompliſh that end, which would ſubject him to the appellation of Poacher from the modern fair Sportſman. The evidence of † Arrian confirms this,

* Xenophon particularly diſtinguiſhes the trail of the Hare, from the ſcent ſhe leaves when running, the firſt he calls ἴυναιξ, the laſt δρομαιὰ.

† Arrian was a military Officer under the Emperor Hadrian, being a follower of Epictetus, as Xenophon was of Socrates, he was fond of comparing himſelf to the illuſtrious Athenian, writing on the ſame ſubjects, and calling himſelf, with no ſmall degree of preſumption, *the Second Xenophon*. He wrote a Treatiſe on Hunting, intended as a ſupplement to that of Xenophon, and which is in fact an account of the method of courſing uſed in his time, in which he ſays, "Xenophon, the ſon of Gryllus, has given "an account of Hunting, particularly of Hare-hunting, "and the uſe of that exerciſe to the art of war, but as he "has taken no notice of Greyhounds, which were not then "known in Greece, I ſhall ſupply that deficiency."

and

and proves that, in the time of Xenophon, Greyhounds were not known in Greece.

Xenophon, after giving an account of the nature of the ſcent, particularly the trail, a deſcription of the Hare, and her manner of ſetting, with directions how to pitch the toils proceeds thus :

" The * Huntſman ſhould go out in a " light careleſs dreſs, and ſhod in the " ſame manner, with a pole in his hand, " the man who carries the nets following " him, and ſhould proceed with ſilence, " leſt the Hare being near ſhould hear " him and ſteal away from her ſeat.

" The Dogs being brought to the " wood, each tied ſeparately that they " may eaſily be let ſlip, the nets pitched, " and a man placed at them to watch, the

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* Κυνηγετης, both the meaning of the expreſſion, and the deſcription of the employment, exactly correſpond with the modern word Huntſman.

" Huntſ-

" Huntſman himſelf taking the Dogs " with him goes in ſearch of the Game.

" Then vowing a part of his ſpoils to " Apollo and Diana, the Huntreſs, he " ſhould looſe that of his Dogs which " has the fineſt noſe, if in the winter " about ſun riſing, in the ſummer before " day-break, and in the other ſeaſons " between thoſe hours.

" To take the trail of the Hare the " Dogs ſhould be drawn from the cul- " tivated fields * upwards; but thoſe that " do not frequent cultivated places muſt " be tried for in meadows, and marſhes, " by ſtreams, on rocks, or in woods, and " when ſhe is moved there ſhould be no " ſhouting, leſt the Dogs, being too eager, " ſhould with difficulty be brought to find " the ſcent.

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* *i. e.* towards the mountains; as we now try to hit the Hare from the corn or turnip field, where ſhe fed into ſtubbles, heaths, or covers.

" If

" If the Dog pricks the trail out, and
" hits it off ſtraight forwards, he ſhould
" ſlip another, and as theſe perſiſt in the
" trail, he ſhould looſe the reſt one after
" the other, but without great intervals,
" and ſhould follow himſelf, but not too
" cloſely, encouraging the Dogs by their
" names, but not vehemently, leaſt they
" ſhould be too eager before the proper
" time.

" They keep running on with joy and
" ſpirit, inveſtigating the trail through
" every turn, now in circles, now ſtraight
" forward, now obliquely, through thick
" and thin, places known, and unknown,
" paſſing each other by turns, moving
" their tails, erecting their ears, and their
" eyes darting fire. When they are near
" the Hare they diſcover it to the Huntſ-
" man, by ſhaking violently, not only
" their tails, but their whole bodies by
" ruſhing on in a warlike manner, by

" trying

" trying to ſurpaſs each other in ſpeed,
" by running eagerly together, by now
" crouding cloſe, and then diſperſing,
" and again ruſhing on, till at laſt they
" come to the ſeat of the Hare, and run
" in upon her.

" She immediately leaps up and flies,
" the Dogs purſuing her in full cry,
" thoſe who follow * chearing the Dogs,
" and the Huntſman wrapping his coat
" round his arm, and taking his pole,
" ſhould alſo follow, taking care to keep
" behind the Hare, and not to head her,
" which is † unſportſman like. The
" Hare runing off and being ſoon out
" of ſight, generally comes back to the
" place where ſhe was firſt ſtarted; The
" Huntſman ſhould call to the perſon
" at the nets to be attentive, and he

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* Here, and in ſeveral other places, Xenophon uſes the hunting language of Greece, which very much reſembles what we uſe on the ſame occaſion.

† Ατειρον γαρ.

" indicates whether the Hare is taken or
" not. If ſhe is taken in the firſt ring,
" the Dogs are called off and they try for
" another, but if not, they follow them
" as ſwiftly as poſſible, and do not give
" her up, but perſevere diligently.

" And if they meet with them again
" during the chace, the Huntſman ſhould
" encourage them with his voice, but if
" they are got very forward, ſo that he
" is not able to keep up with them, but
" is thrown out, and can neither per-
" ceive them near him, nor hear them
" open, nor ſee them running by the
" ſcent; he ſhould, ſtill keeping on, en-
" quire of whoever he happens to meet
" if they have ſeen the Dogs. And when
" he finds them out, if they are on the
" ſcent, he ſhould come up to them and
" encourage them, calling each Dog by
" his name as often as poſſible, and
" changing the tone of his voice to
" harſh,

" harſh, or ſoft, loud, or low, according " to the circumſtances, * eſpecially if " the Hare has made her courſe among " the mountains. When he finds they " have over run the ſcent, he ſhould " hollow the Dogs back, and when he " has brought them to it again he ſhould " draw them round, making many " circles, and if the ſcent is very weak, " he ſhould particularly obſerve the nets †, " and bring the Dogs to them, chearing

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* The literal tranſlation is, " If the chace ſhould happen " to be in the mountains, he ſhould add, beſides his uſual " encouragements, *That's good Dogs!---That's good Dogs!*" ευ κυνες ευ ω κυνες, juſt as we encourage the Hound that tries to hit the Hare through a hard highway, or any place unfit to preſerve the ſcent; which was moſt likely the caſe on the rocky mountains of Greece.

† Στοιχον, the word in the original ſignifies, in the hunting language of Greece, a continuation of nets, by which the woods were ſurrounded; the uſe of trying round them when the Hounds were at fault, was to find through what meuſe the Hare had eſcaped, or whether ſhe had made a ſhort turn back; juſt as we now try in the ſame circumſtances round an incloſed field.

" and

" and encouraging them, till they hit it
" off again.

" When the ſcent is very ſtrong they
" ruſh upon it, leaping, crouding to-
" gether, and ſtooping down, ſignifying
" it in this manner, by well known ſigns
" they purſue very ſwiftly, but while
" they thus perſiſt in the ſcent cloſe to
" each other the Huntſman muſt re-
" ſtrain himſelf and not follow the Dogs
" too near, leſt through emulation they
" ſhould over run the ſcent. When they
" come near the Hare, and diſcover it
" plainly to the Huntſman, he ſhould be
" very careful that, through fear of the
" Dogs, ſhe does not ſteal off before
" he comes up; while they, ſhaking their
" tails, joſtling one againſt the other,
" ſpringing up often, doubling their
" tongues, and lifting up their heads
" towards the Huntſman, diſcover that
" they themſelves are certain of the
" ſcent,

" ſcent, and at laſt ſtart the Hare, and
" purſue her in full cry. Then the
" perſon who ſtands at the nets gives
" a particular hollow, to ſignify whe-
" ther ſhe falls into them, or eſcapes
" by going beyond them, or turning
" ſhort. If ſhe is taken they try for
" another, if not they continue to pur-
" ſue her, following the inſtructions
" already given.

" But when the Dogs are tired with
" running, and it begins to be late in
" the day, it will be neceſſary for the
" Huntſman himſelf to look for the
" Hare, when ſhe is nearly run down;
" and he muſt leave nothing unexplored
" that the earth produces, leſt he ſhould
" miſs of her, for the animal will lie
" very cloſe and not get up, both from
" fear and fatigue. And he ſhould
" bring the Dogs forward, encouraging
" the

" the timid ones much, the eager ones
" little, and thoſe between theſe ex-
" tremes moderately, till they either
" kill her by overtaking her, or drive
" her into the nets.

" After this he ought to take down
" the nets, and calling off the Dogs give
" over the ſport; ſtaying ſomewhere du-
" ring the heat of the day in ſummer, leſt
" the feet of the Dogs ſhould be ſcorched
" by the way."

From this extract it plainly appears that the Greeks purſued the Hare by the foot after ſhe was ſtarted, and ſometimes fairly hunted her down in that manner when ſhe eſcaped the nets. Many of the inſtructions given by Xenophon may be applied to the modern chace, and there will be found a great reſemblance between ſome of his rules and thoſe of the following Eſſays, eſpecially the Letters.

My

My readers will moſt probably think this introduction of a ſufficient length for the work it precedes. I ſhall therefore conclude it by aſſuring them that I have publiſhed both the tracts exactly as they came into my hands, without making a ſingle alteration, or adding any obſervations of my own, except in the notes.

ESSAYS

AN

ESSAY

ON

HUNTING.

ABOVE all things the ſcent has ever been my admiration. The bulk, ſize, figure, and other accidents or qualities of theſe parts or portions of matter that diſcharge themſelves from the bodies of theſe Beaſts of Game, are ſubjects much fitter for the experiments and learned deſcants of a Philoſopher, than a ſimple Huntſman. Whether they are to be conſidered as an extraneous ſtock or treaſure of odoriferous particles given them by Divine wiſdom, for the very purpoſe of hunting? Whether they are proper iden-

tical parts of the animal's body, that continually ferment and perſpire from it? Whether theſe exhalations are from the breath of her lungs, or through the ſkin of her whole body? are queſtions alſo that deſerve the ſubtlety of a Virtuoſo. But ſuch obſervations as long experience has ſuggeſted to me, I ſhall, in the plaineſt manner I am able, lay before my Readers.

That theſe particles are inconceivably ſmall, is, I think, manifeſt from their vaſt numbers. I have taken hundreds of Hares, after a chace of two, three, four, or five hours, and could never perceive the leaſt difference in bulk or weight, from thoſe I have ſeized or ſnapt in their forms: Nor could I ever learn from Gentlemen, who have hunted baſket Hares, that they could diſcover any viſible waſte in their bodies, any farther than may be ſuppoſed to be the effect of diſcharging their groſſer excrements.

But

But ſuppoſing an abatement of two or three grains, or drams, after ſo long a fatigue; yet how minute and almoſt infinite muſt be the diviſion of ſo ſmall a quantity of matter, when it affords a ſhare to ſo many couple of Dogs, for eight, ten, or twelve miles ſucceſſively. Deducting, at the ſame time, the much greater numbers of theſe particles that are loſt in the ground, diſſipated in the air, extinguiſhed and obſcured by the fœtid perſpirations of the Dogs, and other animals, or by the very fumes and exhalations of the earth itſelf. That theſe particles are ſubject to ſuch diſſipation or corruption, every Sportſman knows; for as none of them will retain their odour after a certain proportionable time, ſo it is daily evident that this time of their duration is very obnoxious to the viciſſitudes of the weather; that the ſcent of the animal (as well as her more ſolid fleſh) will loſe its ſweetneſs, ſooner or later, according to the diſpoſition of the am-

 bient

bient air. I have frequently heard the good Houſewives complain, that againſt rain or thunder, their milk will turn, and their larders taint; and I have as often perceived that, a ſtorm approaching, the ſcent will, in a moment, change and vaniſh. Nor is the ſuddenneſs of ſuch alteration the leaſt wonder, if we take into conſideration the ſmallneſs of the particles. The ſame efficient cauſe may penetrate and corrupt theſe minute corpuſcles in the twinkling of an eye, which requires an hour or a day to operate on bodies of greater bulk and ſubſtance; as the ſame fire, or aqua-fortis, will diſſolve the filings of ſteel in an inſtant, though a pound lump of that ſame metal is ſo long able to reſiſt their violence. That theſe particles of ſcent are of an equal (exactly equal) ſpecific gravity with the particles of the air, is demonſtrated by the falling and riſing of them in juſt proportion to it. I have often ſmiled at haſty Huntſmen, to hear them rating and curſing their

dogs

dogs (that yeſterday were the beſt in England) for galloping and ſtaring, with their noſes in the air, as if their game was flown; for often does it happen that it is in vain for them to ſeek after the ſcent in any other place, the increaſing weight of that fluid element having wafted it over their heads. Though even at ſuch a ſeaſon, after the firſt mettle and fury of the cry is ſomething abated, the more ſteady Beagles may make a ſhift to pick it out by the particles left by the bruſh of her feet, eſpecially if there be not a ſtrong, drying, exhaling wind to hurry theſe away after the reſt. This often happens in a calm, gentle, ſteady froſt, when, as I conceive, the purity, coldneſs, or perhaps the nitre of the air, ſerves to fix and preſerve the few remaining particles, that they do not eaſily corrupt. At another ſeaſon, when the air is light, or growing lighter, the ſcent muſt proportionably be falling or ſinking, and then every

Dog,

Dog, though in the height of his courage, he puſhes forwards, yet is forced to come back again and again, and cannot make any ſure advances, but with his noſe in the ground. When circumſtances are thus, (if there be not a ſtorm of thunder impending to corrupt the ſcent, as I ſaid before) you may expect the moſt curious and laſting ſport; Puſs having then a fair opportunity to ſhew her wiles, and every old or ſlow Dog to come in for his ſhare, to diſplay his experience, the ſubtilty of his judgment, and the tenderneſs of his noſtrils. The moſt terrible day for the Hare is, when the air is in its mean gravity, or equilibrio, tolerable moiſt, but inclining to grow drier, and fanned with the gentle breezes of the zephyrs: The moderate gravity buoys up the ſcent as high as the Dog's breaſt; the veſicles of moiſture ſerve as ſo many canals, or vehicles, to carry the effluvia into their noſes; and the gentle fannings help, in ſuch wiſe,

to ſpread and diſſipate them, that every Hound, even at eight or ten paces diſtant, eſpecially on the windy ſide, may have his portion.

I adviſe all Gentlemen who delight in hunting, to provide themſelves with a barometer, or weather glaſs; I am ſorry to ſay, that this inſtrument, though a fine invention, is ſtill imperfectly underſtood by the Philoſopher, as well as the Farmer, and the index generally annexed to it, of rain, fair, ſettled fair, &c. are impertinent and deluſive. If the gravity of the air is the cauſe of drought, the latter ſhould be in proportionate degrees with the former; and yet we ſee the ſudden, or extraordinary riſing of the mercury, a ſure prognoſtick of an approaching change: We ſee it often continue to fall after the rain is over, and we may generally obſerve the moſt ſettled fair, and the greateſt rains, both happen when it is in a moderate height. By the accounts I have kept, the mercury is commonly

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at the higheſt marks in dull cloudy weather, yet does it often fall a great deal faſter before a few drops or a dry miſt, than an impetuous rain; and even continue to do ſo after a hard rain is over: And what is more common than to ſee it deſcend many days together, to the terror of the Huſbandman, in hay or corn harveſt; when the conſequence, at laſt, is only a few drops, weighty enough to deſcend, though the air was in its utmoſt degree of gravity, and the mercury at thirty-one inches. The vulgar ſolutions of theſe difficulties are inſufficient and puzzling, and very inconſiſtent with avowed principles: And, in my humble opinion, there will never appear a certain and ſatisfactory account of theſe perplexing phænomena, till ſome ſage Naturaliſt ſhall give himſelf the trouble of a more full and complete Diary, than as yet has been publiſhed; where, together with the degrees of the barometer, thermometer, and hygrometer, ſhall be taken in,

in, in distinct columns, the time of the year, the length of the days, the age of the moon, the situation of the wind, with its degrees of roughness, the colours of the clouds at sun rising and setting, the manner of flying, chattering, or flocking of birds, and divers other concurring tokens and symptoms, which may be of great use, in conjunction with the said instruments, to settle and confirm our prognostication. In the mean time it must be confessed, that this ingenious machine is of great use to the observant Huntsman; and when he rises in the morning, and finds the air moist and temperate, the quick-silver in his glass moderately high, or gently convex, he has a fair invitation to prepare for his exercise. I know it is a custom with our juvenile Sportsmen to fix the time two or three days before hand to meet a friend, or to hunt in such or such a quarter. But appointed matches of this kind are my aversion and abhorrence: He that will

enjoy the pleaſures of the chace, muſt aſk leave of the Heavens. Hunting is a trade that is not to be forced, nor can the beſt Cry that ever was coupled, make any thing of it unleſs the air be in tune.

The earth alſo hath no ſmall influence on this delicious paſtime; for though it ſometimes happens (according to the obſervation above) that the ſcent is floating, ſo that you may run down a Hare through water and mire, eſpecially if you keep pretty cloſe after her, without the trouble of ſtooping; yet, at ſuch a ſeaſon, the firſt fault is the loſs of your Game; the perſpirations of her body being wafted over head by the gravity of the air, and thoſe of her feet being left on elements that abſorb or confound them. This laſt caſe very often happens at the going off of a froſt, the mercury is then commonly falling, and by conſequence the ſcent ſinking to the ground: The earth is naturally on ſuch occaſion fermenting, diſſolv-

diſſolving, ſtinking, exhaling, and very porous, ſo that it is impoſſible but moſt of the particles muſt then be corrupted, buried, or overcome by ſtronger vapours. It is common to hear the vulgar ſay, ſhe carries dirt in her heels, but that is not all, it being very plain, by what has been obſerved, that it is not only by the ſcent of the foot ſhe is ſo eagerly purſued.---The mention of froſt puts me in mind of a particular obſervation of my own making, that may be uſeful or diverting to my Brethren of the Chace: You all make it a great part of your pleaſure to hunt out the walk of a Hare to her ſeat, and doubtleſs you have often been ſurprizingly diſappointed on ſuch occaſions. You have many times been able to hunt the ſame walk in one part of the fields and not in another; you have hunted the ſame walk at ten or eleven, which gave the leaſt ſcent at ſeven in the morning; and, which is moſt provoking and perplexing of all, you have often

often been able to hunt it only at the wrong end, or backwards; after many hours wonder and expectation, cherishing your Dogs, and cursing your fortune, you are in truth never so far from your Game as when your hunt is warmest. All these accidents are only the effect of the hoar-frost, or very gross dew, (for they never happen otherwise,) and from thence must the miracle be accounted for.*

I have already proved that a thaw tends to corrupt the particles, and have as good reason to maintain that the frost fixes, covers, and preserves them. Whether this is done by inter-

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* "In the winter there is no scent early in the "morning when there is either an hoar-frost or a hard "frost; the hoar-frost, by its force, contracts and "contains all the warm particles in itself, and the "harder frost congeals them. In these cases the Dogs, "with the most tender noses, cannot touch before the "sun dispels them, and the day is advanced, then the "Dogs can smell, and the trail yields a scent as it evaporates." XENOPHON.

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cepting their aſcent, and precipitating them to the ground by the groſs particles of frozen dew, or whether by ſheathing them and protecting them from the penetrating air, (as the good Wives preſerve their potted meats and pickles,) I leave to the Learned, but the facts are certain, and confirmed by experience. We have, therefore, only to take notice, by the way, that the hoar-froſt is very often of ſhort continuance, changeable and uncertain, both as to its time and place of falling, and hence all theſe difficulties are eaſily reſolved. Let the Huntſman, as ſoon as he is out of bed, examine but the glaſs windows, which commonly diſcover whether any hoar-froſt has fallen, what time it came, and in what condition of continuance, or going off, it is for the preſent. If it appears to have fallen at two, three, or four in the morning, (ſuppoſe in the month of October, and other times of the year muſt be judged of by proportion,) and

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to be going off about break of day, it may then be expected that there will be a great difficulty, or impoſſibility, of trailing to her ſeat, becauſe her morning retreat being on the top of the frozen dew, the ſcent is either diſſolved, or corrupted, or diſſipated, and exhaled. It is true, after ſuch a night, the Dogs will find work in every field, and often hunt in full cry, but it will be generally backward, and always in vain; her midnight ramblings, which were covered by the froſt, being now open, freſh, and fragrant. If the ſaid froſt begins later in the morning, after Puſs is ſeated, there is nothing to be done till that is gone off, and this is the reaſon that we often ſee the whole Pack picking out a walk at nine or ten in the ſame path where Sweet-lips herſelf could not touch at ſeven. Again, if the froſt began early enough, and continues ſteadily till you are gotten into the fields, you may then make it good to her ſeat, as well as at other

times

times on naked ground, though you muſt expect to run a good riſque at the going off of the froſt, according to the obſervations already laid down.

It is alſo to be remembered, that there is no ſmall accidental difference in the very particles of ſcent; I mean that they are ſtronger, ſweeter, or more diſtinguiſhable at one time than at another, and that this difference is found not only in divers, but often in the ſame individual creature, according to the changes of the air, or the ſoil, as well as of her own motions or conditions. That there is a different ſcent in other animals of the ſame ſpecies, is evident from the draught Hounds, which were formerly made uſe for tracing and purſuing Thieves and Deer-ſtealers, or rather from any common Cur or Spaniel, which will hunt out their maſter, or their maſter's horſe diſtinctly ftom all others: And that it is the ſame with the Hare is no leſs viſible from the old Beagles, which will not

not readily change for a freſh one, unleſs ſhe ſtarts in view, or unleſs a fault happens that puts them in confuſion, and inclines them in deſpair to take up with the next they can come by.

That the ſame Hare will, at divers times, emit finer or groſſer particles, is equally manifeſt to every one who ſhall obſerve the frequent changes in one ſingle chace, the alterations that enſue on any different motion, and on her degrees of ſinking. The courſing of a Cur Dog, or the fright from an obvious paſſenger, is often the occaſion of an unexpected fault; and, after ſuch an accident, the Dogs muſt be cheriſhed, and be put upon it again and again, before they will take it and acknowledge it for their game. The reaſon is, as I conceive, the change of the motion cauſes a change in the perſpiring particles, and as the ſpirits of the Dogs are all engaged and attached to particles of ſuch or ſuch a figure, it is with difficulty they

they come to be ſenſible of, or attentive to, thoſe of a different reliſh. You will pardon the expreſſion if I compare old Jouler, in this caſe, to a Mathematician, who is ſo intent on the long perplexing ambages of the problem before him, that he hears not the clock or bell that ſummons him to a new employment. The alterations in a yielding Hare are leſs frequently the occaſion of faults, becauſe they are more gradual, and like the ſame rope, inſenſibly tapering and growing ſmaller. But that alterations there are every Dog-boy knows by the old Hounds, which ſtill purſue, with greater earneſtneſs, as ſhe is nearer her end.

I take motion to be the chief cauſe of ſhedding or diſcharging theſe ſcenting particles, becauſe ſhe is very ſeldom perceived whilſt quiet in her form, though the Dogs are never ſo near, though they leap over her, or, as I have often ſeen, even tread upon her. Indeed, it ſometimes happens that ſhe is, as we ſay, winded where ſhe ſits. But this may be

the effect of that train of ſcent ſhe left behind her in going to her chair, or more probably the conſequence of her own curioſity, in moving, and riſing up, (as I have alſo ſeen) to peep after and watch the proceedings of her adverſaries. However, we muſt grant that theſe particles of ſcent, though the effect of motion, are not more groſs and copious in proportion to the increaſing ſwiftneſs of the animal, any more than in a watering-pot, which the ſwifter it paſſes, the leſs of the falling water it beſtows on the ſubjacent plants.

It is very plain, the ſlower the Hare moves the ſtronger and groſſer, *ceteris paribus*, are theſe particles ſhe leaves behind her, which I take to be one reaſon (beſides the cloathing and ſhielding of them from the penetrating air by the deſcending froſt or dew) that the morning walk will give ſcent * ſo much longer than

* "The ſcent of the trail of the Hare going to her ſeat "laſts longer than that of her courſe when purſued: When "ſhe goes to her ſeat ſhe goes ſlowly, often ſtanding ſtill; "but her courſe, when purſued, is performed running; "therefore the ground is ſaturated with one, and not filled "with the other." XENOPHON.

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the flight in hunting. However, it is as remarkable, that these odorous particles gradually decay and end with her life *, because it requires the most curious noses to lead the cry when she is near her last; because she is so often entirely lost at the last squat, and because if you knock her on the head before them, there is hardly one in the Pack that will stop or take any notice of her.

The greatest art and curiosity is discovered in hunting the foil, especially if she immediately steal back behind the Dogs the same path she came; for it must require the utmost skill to distinguish well the new scent from the old, when both are mixed, obscured, and confounded, with the strong perspirations of so many Dogs and Horses. Yet this we have often seen performed by ready and expert Hunters. However, if the Dogs be not masters of their business, or if the air be not in due

* This observation, which my own experience convinces me is just, the Reader will find directly contradicted in the subsequent letters. See letter 6.

balance, the difficulty will be the greater.

The Reader will obſerve, that the remarks I have made are generally on the Hare, which, I have ſaid, is of all others moſt worthy of our ſpeculation and enquiry. By analogy the hunting the Deer or Fox will be eaſily underſtood, for though the ſcent of theſe is generally higher, more obvious to noſes of the Dogs, and in greater plenty whilſt the particles laſt, yet for that very reaſon (floating in the air) they are ſooner diſſipated, and require a more vigorous, though leſs ſubtile, Huntſman, as well as ſwifter Beagles.

HOUNDS.

HOUNDS.

MY learned Predeceſſors have been ſo full and copious in deſcriptions of theſe Animals, in directions for mending and improving the Breed, in giving advice for chuſing, pairing, kenneling, feeding, phyſicking, entering, governing, encouraging, and correcting the loud-tongued Society, that there is little left for a new Author, without repetition or impertinence. Let me only admire and adore the goodneſs of our bountiful Father, in furniſhing his children with creatures ſo innocently, as well as healthfully, to divert them, in ſupplying us with forces for ſubduing and deſtroying thoſe beaſts of rapine, which would

would otherwiſe multiply, to the great diſturbance, danger, and deſtruction of the reſt of the creation.

It is a common practice of our young Students in Philoſophy, (for uſe or for diverſion,) either for the love of knowledge, or of miſchief, to ſteal or lay hold of their neighbours Dogs, in order to diſſect them. We may hear them often diſplaying their ſkill, with pert eloquence; boaſting of their diſcoveries in the circulation of the blood, the contexture of the muſcles, the progreſs of the nerves, veins, and arteries, and learnedly deſcanting on the glands or ſtrainers, the imperceptible ducts of the lacteals, as well as the ſpiral motion of the bowels. To ſuch I recommend a little farther and more particular enquiry into the ſpecial formation of theſe creatures. Let them employ their knives, their glaſſes, and their pens, to deſcribe to us ignorant Country 'Squires the organs of ſound, as well as ſcent, in this domeſtic animal we ſo much delight in. I leave to theſe curious Virtuoſi to delineate

delineate the lamina of the Beagles noſes, with thoſe innumerable olfactory tubes and pores of all ſizes and figures, that are ſpread over or paſs through them. Let them nicely inveſtigate thoſe minute fibres which compoſe their lungs, trachea, lips, and palate; thoſe veſſels which qualify them to emit a voice ſo ſweet and chearful, ſo proper to give notice of their diſcoveries to their maſter, as well as to call together their ſtraggling companions, to unite their forces.

But there is a queſtion or two which have been ſometimes put me by my inquiſitive Brethren, to which I think it incumbent upon me in this place to give an anſwer.

Firſt, I have been aſked, what or how many different ſorts of theſe Animals of Chace were originally created? What were thoſe firſt kinds, out of which ſo many packs of innumerable ſhapes, tongues, ſizes, and colours, may be ſuppoſed to be produced?

My

My anſwer is ſhort and plain, yet ſomething fuller than the queſtions require: That, in my opinion, not only all Hounds or Beagles, but all Dogs whatſoever, even from the terrible Boar Dog to the little Flora, are all one in the firſt creation, that every virtue and faculty, ſize or ſhape, which we find or improve in every Dog upon earth, were originally comprehended in the firſt parents of the ſpecies; and that all this variety we behold in them, is either the natural product of the climate, or the accidental effect of ſoil, food, or ſituation, or very frequently the iſſue of human care, curioſity, or caprice. Every Huntſman knows that a vaſt alteration may be made in his breed, as to tongue, heels, or colour, by induſtriouſly improving the ſame blood for twenty or thirty years; and what nature can do, (which wiſely tends to render every kind of creature fit for the country where it is to inhabit, or be employed,) is manifeſt by this: That a couple of right Southern Hounds, removed

moved to the North, and ſuffer to propagate, without art or mixture, in a hilly mountainous country, where the air is light and thin, will, by ſenſible degrees, decline and degenerate into lighter bodies, and ſhriller voices, if not rougher coats. The like alterations may be obſerved in the breeds of ſheep, horſes, and other cattle, and indeed in every other ſpecies ſubject to the art and intereſt of man, and employed to generate at his choice and humour. Even in thoſe animals that are reckoned among the *feræ natura*, every traveller bears witneſs of a remarkable difference, and I hope the Reader will pardon the compariſon if I affirm the ſame of man himſelf.

That we are all, of every nation and language, the ſons of Adam, we have the teſtimony of God, which to honeſt Hunters (who are generally of the orthodox party) is of ſufficient authority. As to Doubters and Sceptics I refer them to the ancient Poets, Hiſtorians, and Geographers, who will ſoon ſupply them with

innumerable arguments and obſervations which unanſwerably demonſtrate the novelty of the world. The migration of colonies, the gradual peopling of the earth, and the propagating and ſpreading of the human ſpecies from one and the ſame original; and yet what an incredible and monſtrous variety is riſen among us, in humour and conſtitution, as well as ſhape and colour? Who could imagine the thick-lipped Ethiopian, wool-pated Negroe, the blink-eyed Chineſe, the ſtately Spaniard, and the dapper Frenchman, to be of the ſame parentage? Or to go no farther than our own nation and climate, how improbable may it ſeem that the faſhionable Nymph, who is not able to make a viſit of thirty yards without a chair or coach, a 'Squire to lead her, or a cane to ſupport her, ſhould be caſt in the ſame mould with the Farmer's Daughter? Or that the ſturdy Champions of Queen Beſs's days, ſhould be but the great grandfathers of that puny race, which is to be ſeen ſwarming in all modern

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public Aſſemblies, unleſs it be at Church?

But is there not a more ſubſtantial diſtinction between Curs and Greyhounds, Turnſpits and Beagles? I can hardly grant it; or if there be it will be eaſily accounted for by the conſiderations above, by giving juſt allowance for food and climate, by remembering that theſe animals are frequent breeders, that they generate at the choice and diſcretion of their maſters, that the fancy or curioſity of the ſons of men have been five thouſand years mixing and altering, improving or ſpoiling them. The Butcher ſends for the famous Dog with the ſilver collar to couple with his favourite, and rears up the whelp with blood and garbage, to increaſe the valour and ſtrength of this progeny. The Huntſman nouriſhes his cloſe-begotten litter with ſheeps trotters, to invigorate their heels, and Belinda gives her little Oronoko brandy, to make him good for nothing but to look on, to contract his

growth into a petit epitome of her *tres beau*, Philander.

But notwithſtanding the effects of human induſtry and contrivance are thus great and numerous, yet they are not infinite, there is ſtill a *ne plus* to which they are ſtinted, nor can all our devices add one new ſpecies to the works of the creation. Nature is ſtill uniform as to the main, the Almighty Creator is not to be imitated by ſhort-handed mortals: In ſpite of art our mules will all be barren; nor can the moſt cunning projector produce one amphigeneous animal that will increaſe and multiply. There appears a diſtinct ſpecific difference in all living creatures; the Horſe, the Dog, the Bear, the Goat, however diverſified by art or accident in ſize or figure, will ever diſcover ſomething that appropriates to them thoſe names or characters; and, above all other things, the peculiar appetites and powers of generation will prompt them to own and indicate their relation. This, I conceive, is the moſt undeniable argu-

argument that all Dogs are of one original ſpecies, ſince every body knows that no deformity, diſproportion, or diſſimilitude, can hinder any one of that name from courting, following, or accepting the other, nor their mongrel offspring from enjoying the common nature and faculties of the ſpecies.

But admitting the diſtinctions of Hounds, Beagles, &c. as they commonly ſtand, I have been alſo conſulted what particular ſorts I would recommend for each particular Game in this iſland. For the Deer, the Fox, the Otter, &c. every Sportſman knows the breed that is moſt proper; but as each of them, with a little application, will joyfully follow the ſweet ſcented Hare, the query is, what kind is preferable for that delightful exerciſe?

The moſt ſatisfactory reply to every Hunter is, that his own kind is beſt; but ſuch as are ſetting up a new cry, I would adviſe to begin to breed on the middle ſize Dogs, betwixt the Southern Hound and

and the Northern Beagle. It is true, the fineſt and moſt curious ſport is generally with the former. Whether it be the particular formation of their long trunks, or the extraordinary moiſture that always cleaves to the noſes and lips of theſe ſort of Dogs, I need not enquire in this place, but certain it is that they are endued with the moſt accurate ſenſe of ſmelling, and can often take and diſtinguiſh the ſcent an hour after the lighter Beagles can make nothing of it. Their ſlowneſs alſo better diſpoſes them to receive the commands and directions of the Huntſman, and their much phlegm, (for there ſeems to be a difference in the conſtitutions of other animals as well as man,) I ſay, their phlegm gives them patience to proceed with caution and regularity, to make ſure of every ſtep as they go, carefully to deſcribe every indenture, to unravel each puzzling trick or figure. But theſe grave ſort of Dogs are however fitteſt for maſters of the ſame temper, as they are able to hunt in cold ſcent,

they

they are too apt to make it ſo, by their want of ſpeed and vigor to puſh forward, and keep it warm; their exactneſs often renders them trifling and tedious; and they are like ſome nice Dames, who ſtand picking out every duſt and mote, whilſt they might dreſs the meat. By this means, though the hunt be finer, yet the prey (which is by ſome thought neceſſary to complete the ſport) very often eſcapes, the length of the chace takes up the time, and expoſes them to numerous hazards of loſing.

The North Country Beagle is nimble and vigorous, and does his buſineſs as furiouſly as Jehu himſelf can wiſh him: He purſues Puſs with the moſt impetuous eagerneſs, gives her no time to breathe or double, and, if the ſcent lies high, will eaſily demoliſh a leaſh, or two brace before dinner *. But this is too much, too

* All other kind of Hounds are now entirely laid aſide by thoſe who affect to hunt in ſtyle, though Somerville gives

too ſhort, and violent, nor is ſuch ſucceſs often to be expected. For though this kind of Dogs are much in requeſt among our younger Gentry, who take out-running and out-riding their neighbours to be the beſt part of the ſport; yet it would make one ſick to be out with them in a croſs morning, when the walk lies backward, or the ſcent low or falling. The Huntſman rates, the Groom rides, the 'Squire ſwears, the whips crack; war-wing, war-counter, war-ſheep, p— take ye, the d—l had ye, is the burden of their muſick. Their high mettle makes them impatient to drive the nail as it will go, rather than ſtay to creep or ſtoop, they

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gives his teſtimony againſt this practice in the following animated lines:

" A different Hound for every different chace
" Select with judgment, nor the timorous Hare
" O'er match'd deſtroy, but leave that vile offence
" To the mean, murderous, courſing crew, intent
" On blood and ſpoil; O blaſt their hopes, juſt Heaven!" SOMERVILLE'S CHACE.

puſh

puſh forward, at every ſume they catch, they croſs it, over-run it, hunt backward, or hunt any thing to force a trade; in ſhort, in my opinion, it is impoſſible to make a good Pack of theſe, without the conſtant diſcipline of the whip, without perpetually hunting them, and hunting them down to tame their fury, and quench their fire.

There is yet another ſort in great favour with ſmall Gentry, becauſe they eat but little: Theſe, as their noſes are very tender and not far from the ground, I have often ſeen to make tolerable ſport, but without great care they are flirting and maggotty, and very apt to chaunt and chatter on any or no occaſion: A rabbit, mouſe, or weeſel, will pleaſe them inſtead of lawful game; and, in truth, it is ſeldom they underſtand (if I may uſe that expreſſion) their buſineſs, or perform their office with judgment or diſcretion.

The mixture of all, or any of theſe, I ſhould judge to be better, eſpecially if a diſtinguiſhable portion of ſouthern blood

be remaining in their veins. The managing the litters I muſt leave to the diſcretion of the 'Squire and his man. But I know by experience a race may be produced, that, by running with leſs ſpeed, will ſurer and ſooner arrive at the end; a race that carry with them a good ſhare of the noſe and ſteadineſs of the deep curtails, the vigour and activity of the chackling Beagle, the ſtrength and toughneſs of the right Buck Hound, and the tuneful voices that are a compound of all; but enough of this.

THE

HORSE.

THE Horſe I take to be very neceſſary furniture towards the pleaſure of Hunting; for though I have heard of wonderful performances among boaſting Footmen, I could never yet ſee any creature on two legs keep in with the Dogs. But as every Groom, and moſt Gentlemen, are well acquainted with the uſe, properties, excellencies, and management of this noble beaſt, I ſhall offer very little on this beaten ſubject, only let it be obſerved, that not every good and fleet Horſe is always a good

Hunter: For he may have ſtrength and vigour for a long journey, and yet not be able to bear the ſhocks and ſtrainings of a chace; another may be ſwift enough to win a plate on a ſmooth turf, which yet will be crippled or heart-broken by one Hare in February. The right Hunter ought to have ſtrength without weight, courage without fire, ſpeed without labour, a free breath, a ſtrong walk, a nimble, light, but a large gallop, and a ſweet trot, to give change and eaſe to the more ſpeedy muſcles. The marks moſt likely to diſcover a Horſe of theſe properties are, a vigorous, ſanguine, and healthy colour, a head and neck as light as poſſible, whether handſome or not, a quick moving eye and ear, clean wide jaws and noſtrils, large thin ſhoulders, and high withers, deep cheſt, and ſhort back, large ribs, and wide pinbones, tail high and ſtiff, gaſkins well ſpread, and buttocks lean and hard; above all, let his joints be ſtrong and firm, and his legs

legs and paſterns ſhort; for I believe there was never yet a long limber-legged Horſe that was able to gallop down ſteep hills, and take bold leaps with a weight upon his back, without ſinking or foundering.

As to all matters of feeding, phyſicking, airing, &c. I refer you to the more expert Grooms, or the learned Doctors of the Hammer and Pincers. But as my way in ordering my ſteeds is to conſult uſe rather than ornament, I always keep them in the open air, unleſs the night after a hard chace; I allow them two or three acres of paſture to cool their bellies, and ſtretch their limbs, with a warm hovel to ſhelter them from a ſtorm, a rack, and manger, with proper proviſions to keep them in heart, and a freſh ſpring of water in the ſame field, to quench their thirſt. I have known a gelding, with this regimen, to be ſound, freſh, and in full vigor, after ten years the hardeſt hunting; and I dare promiſe him that ſhall try, to find

find ſuch a one as far beyond the fine-cloathed, thin-ſkinned Courſer, *cæterus paribus*, as a rough Plowman is fitter for buſineſs than a ſoft-handed Beau.

HUNTSMAN.

IT is common enough with our young 'Squires to take the firſt wide-throated Attendant that offers his ſervice, and make him his Huntſman, imagining the green coat will qualify him for the office, as ſome ſet themſelves for Doctors, with no other recommendation but large eye-brows, and a ſet of loud-ſounding polyſyllables.

But as every wood will not make a Mercury, much leſs is he fit for a Huntſman who is not born with a natural caſt and readineſs of mind, and has not improved

proved thoſe talents by long ſtudy, obſervation, and experience.

I once had the pleaſure of a long converſation with a very ingenious learned Gentleman, then ſeventy years old: Having himſelf hunted with all ſorts of Dogs, and in moſt of the counties in England, he entertained me with a moſt delightful diſcourſe on that ſubject, and upon my making him a compliment on his perfect knowledge in the art, "Oh, Sir, (ſays he,) the life of man is too ſhort." This ſage declaration was received as a jeſt by ſome of the company, but I have ſince found it a ſerious truth. I am an old man myſelf, the wiles of the Hare have been all along the ſtudy of my leiſure hours, and yet I am puzzled and out-witted by the ſubtil creature. When I think myſelf ſure, ſhe often puts ſome unexpected trick upon me, and hardly do I ever loſe her in tolerable ſcenting weather; but, like a General after the loſs of a battle, I can afterwards diſcern that it was the effect of ſome overſight,

or

want of proviſion for ſuch or ſuch a contingency. For the conqueſt of a Hare, like that of an enemy, does not depend on vigorous attacks or purſuits, but there are a hundred accidents to which the ſucceſs of the field is obnoxious, and which ought always to be in the head of the Huntſman, if he would come off with glory.

It is not enough, with good judgment, to chuſe our forces, to raiſe their courage with wholeſome food, and frequent exhortations, and to make them ſubject to the word of command by conſtant diſcipline and exerciſe, but in time of action we ought to be armed with calmneſs and preſence of mind, to obſerve the various motions and ſtratagems made uſe of to defeat us, and furniſhed with prudent foreſight and proviſion for every new emergency to which the fortune of the day is ſubject. We muſt never forget that every Hare (as we ſay of Fencers) has her particular play; that, however, that play is occaſioned or changed accord-

ing to the variation of wind and weather, the weight of the air, the nature of the ground, and the degrees of eagerneſs with which ſhe is purſued. Nor are we to be unmindful of the numerous accidents ſhe may meet with in her way, to turn her out of her courſe, to cover her flight, to quicken her ſpeed, or to furniſh her with an opportunity of new devices. I ſay, it is not enough to have a general knowledge of theſe things before the Game is ſtarted, but in the heat of action, when we are moſt tempted to be in raptures with the ſound of the horns *, the melody of the cry, and the expectation of ſucceſs, we muſt carry them in our heads; every ſtep we make we muſt calmly obſerve the alterations of ſoil, the poſition of the wind, the time

* I am at a loſs to conceive why this noble appendage to Hunting is entirely diſuſed in this age of expence. Perhaps the French horn may be inconvenient in a Fox chace, but ſurely would be a pleaſing addition to a good pack of Harriers.

of

of the year, and no leſs take notice with what ſpeed ſhe is driven, how far ſhe is before, to what place ſhe tends; whether ſhe is likely to keep on forward, or to turn ſhort behind; whether ſhe has not been met by paſſengers, frightened by curs, intercepted by ſheep; whether an approaching ſtorm, a riſing wind, a ſudden blaſt of the ſun, the going off of the froſt, the repetition of foiled ground, the decay of her own ſtrength, or any other probable turn of affairs, has not abated or altered the ſcent.

There are other things ſtill no leſs neceſſary to be remembered than the former; as the particular quality and character of each Dog; whether the preſent Leaders are not apt to over-run it; which are moſt inclined to ſtand upon the double; which are to be depended on in the highway, on the ploughed ground, or a bare turf, in an uncertain ſcent, in the croſſing of freſh game, through a flock of ſheep, upon the foil or ſtole-back. The ſize alſo and ſtrength of the

Hare will make a difference; nor muſt the Hounds themſelves be followed ſo cloſely, or ſo loudly cheriſhed when freſh and vigorous, as after they have run off their ſpeed and mettle, and begin to be tired.

I would adviſe a young Huntſman, when the ſcent lies well, always to keep himſelf pretty far behind. At ſuch a time, eſpecially if it be againſt the wind, it is impoſſible for the poor Hare to hold it forward; nor has ſhe any trick or refuge for her life, but to ſtop ſhort by the way, or path, and, when all are paſt, to ſteal immediately back, which is often the occaſion of an irrecoverable fault, in the midſt of the warmeſt ſport and expectations, and is the beſt trick the poor Hare has for her life in ſcenting weather; whereas if the Huntſman were not too forward, he would have the advantage of ſeeing her ſteal off, and turning her aſide, or more probably the pleaſure of the Dogs returning and thruſting her up in view.

It

It is very common for the fleet Dog to be the great favourite, though it would be much better if he was hanged, or exchanged. Be a Dog in his own nature ever ſo good, yet he is not good in that pack that is too ſlow for him. There is moſt times work enough for every one of the train, and every one ought to bear his part; but this is impoſſible for the heavy ones to do, if they are run out of breath by the unproportionable ſpeed of a light-heeled leader. For it is not enough that they are able to keep up, which a true Hound will labour hard for, but they muſt be able to do it with eaſe, with retention of breath and ſpirits, and with their tongues at command. It muſt never be expected that the indentures of the Hare can be well covered, or her doubles ſtruck off, (nor is the ſport worth a farthing,) if the Harriers run yelping in a long ſtring, like Deer or Fox Hounds.

Another thing I would adviſe my friends, is to hang up every liar and chanter,

chanters, not ſparing even thoſe that are ſilly and trifling, without noſe or ſagacity. It is common enough in numerous kennels to keep ſome for their muſick or beauty, but this is perfectly wrong. It is a certain maxim that every Dog which does no good, does a great deal of hurt; they ſerve only to foil the ground, and confound the ſcent; to ſcamper before and interrupt their betters in the moſt difficult points. And I may venture to affirm, by long experience, that four or five couple, all good and truſty Hounds, will do more execution than thirty or forty, where a third of them are eager and headſtrong, and, like coxcombs among men, noiſy in doing nothing.

Above all I abhor joining with ſtrangers, for this is the way to ſpoil and debauch the ſtaunchеſt Hounds, to turn the beſt mettled into mad-headed gallopers, liars, and chatterers, and to put them on nothing but out-running their rivals, and over-running the ſcent. The emulation

of

of leading (in Dogs and their Maſters) has been the utmoſt ruin of many a good cry. Nor are ſtrange Huntſmen of much better conſequence than ſtrange Companions; for as the ſkill and excellence of theſe animals conſiſt in uſe and habit, they ſhould always be accuſtomed to the ſame voice, the ſame notes, or hallowings, and the ſame terms of chiding, cheriſhing, preſſing, or recalling; nor ſhould the country fellows be allowed, in their tranſports, to extend their throats.

It will be taken ill if I ſhould alſo ſpeak againſt a change of game, becauſe mere 'Squires would be at a great loſs to kill ſome of their time, had they nothing to kill, when Hares are out of ſeaſon. However*, I am well ſatisfied that the beſt Harriers are thoſe that know no other. Nor is it adviſeable to let them change for

* "They ſhould never be ſuffered to hunt Foxes, which "does them the greateſt harm, and they are never ſtaunch "when there is occaſion for it." XENOPHON.

a freſh

a freſh Hare, as long as they can poſſibly follow the old, nor to take off their noſes from the ſcent they are upon, for the cutting ſhorter or gaining of ground. This laſt is the common trick with Pot-hunters, but as it is unfair, and barbarous to the Hare, ſo you will ſeldom find it of advantage to the Hounds.

SIX LETTERS

UPON

HUNTING.

LETTER I.

The ART *and* PLEASURE *of* HUNTING.

THE ſolicitations I have received ſo frequently from your Lordſhip to give my ſentiments on Hare-hunting, hath at laſt induced me to put pen to paper; but I muſt deſire you will conſider that, as little can be ſaid on the ſubject with poſitive truth and certainty, great part of what I ſhall advance muſt be deemed matter of conjecture; yet ſuch as bears ſtrong features or reſemblance of reality, being founded chiefly on obſervations, made in a long courſe of years and experience.

Moſt perſons, I may venture to ſay all, at one or other time of life, are fond of ſome peculiar amuſement. Your Lordſhip cannot forget in our frequent debates on diverſions, I have often declared Hare-hunting has been mine. What contributed to my liking it were, the early impreſſions I received in favour of the ſport, from a grandfather and father, who made it their particular delight. I confeſs to your Lordſhip the being prejudiced ſo much in its favour ſtill, that I eſteem few diverſions equal nor any preferable to it. The Buck, Stag, Hind, or Fox-chace, no doubt have their delights; but of ſuch ſort as cannot heartily be enjoyed, except by perſons of ample fortune and circumſtance, like your Lordſhip, and ſuch indeed do, or ſeem chiefly to delight in thoſe ſports, though many that purſue them, on examination of their hearts, I dare ſay will be conſcious they do it more from a motive of affectation than real love

A Lover of Hunting almoſt every man is, or would be thought; but twenty in the

the field after a Hare, my Lord, find more delight and ſincere enjoyment than one in twenty in a Fox-chace, the former conſiſting of an endleſs variety of accidental delights, the latter little more than hard riding, the pleaſure of clearing ſome dangerous leap, the pride of ſtriding the beſt Nag, and ſhewing ſomewhat of the bold Horſeman, and (equal to any thing) of being firſt in at the death, after a chace frequently from county to county, and perhaps above half the way out of ſight or hearing of the Hounds. So that, but for the name of Fox-hunting, a man might as well mount at his ſtable-door, and determine to gallop twenty miles an end into another county. I do not doubt but at the concluſion of ſuch an imaginary chace, if he came to his inn ſafe, he would enjoy all that firſt and chief ſatisfaction ſeveral Gentlemen do in their hearts after a Fox-chace, from the happineſs of having cleared many double ditches, five bar gates, and dangerous ſloughs, without

without the misfortune of one broken rib, notwithſtanding two or three confounded falls in taking flying leaps.

After a Hare theſe accidents are not uſually met with, the diverſion is of another ſort. When Puſs is ſtarted ſhe ſeldom fails to run a ring, the firſt is generally the worſt (for horſe or foot) that may happen in the whole hunt. For the fences * once leaped, or the gates once opened, makes a clear paſſage oftentimes for every turn ſhe takes afterwards.

The caſe is otherwiſe with Stag, Buck, or Fox, when either is on foot, ten to one, after a few turns, if he does not take end ways, and lead the keen Sportſman into continued new unexperienced dangers. If he is unhorſed there lies the hero of the day, undiſtinguiſhed, unaſſiſted; if not, he has the pleaſure at

* The fences being leaped can be of no uſe to thoſe that follow, he ſhould have ſaid, broken down.

the

the end of the chace of finding himſelf a dozen miles perhaps from his own home.

The former of theſe advantages made a noble Peer turn off the fineſt kennel England boaſted. The beſt of Conſorts to this day deplores her Silurian Prince, who, by a broken rib, was cut off in the flower of his age.

Obſerve the nimble Harrier, my Lord, continues the double, on foot or horſeback, according as age, ability, or fortune impowers him, enjoys every note of the harmony, cloſely purſues his pack, is ſeldom thrown out of ſight or hearing, and, above all, enjoys a hunt delightful, but not dangerous, as the Fox-chace, moderate, but not ſo laborious, in the courſe of which his ſatisfaction is in no ſmall degree heightened (whether he purſues, croſſes, or guards the foil,) by the frequent views of the Game.

How

How quick the blood circulates in the vigorous youth, and at the unexpected ſight of the Hare, how nimbly pants the heart with ſurprizing tranſports, till then unfelt? How are the ſpirits cheared, the long congealed blood warmed of limping age, the memorable exploits of twenty-ſix brought full into view, and feebly mimicked at threeſcore and ten? How are both young and old loſt in delightful enchantments, when Puſs has balked the Dogs, dropt the Pack, and on ſome riſing hillock plays in ſight her little tricks, leaps here, doubles there, now ſits an end, liſtens, then crouched, (as if ſunk into the earth) deceives the unexperienced eye, and creeps to a *quat*.

Theſe are raptures unenjoyed in Fox or any other chace; but Hare-hunting may be as diſagreeable to the Park-keeper, Foreſter, or Fox-hunter, as the contrary to me, and each may, and no doubt hath, as much to advance in favour of his amuſement as I can poſſibly ſay of mine; therefore

therefore it would be impudent to declaim againſt other people's diverſions, to enhance the ſatisfaction found in mine.

It is humour and inclination makes one or other partake of any paſtime or not; and the delight found in purſuing a poor harmleſs Hare, with a parcel of ugly roaring Hounds, to a man of cold, ſlow circulation, or a fribble of meek effeminate temper, may appear, on conſideration, inhuman and barbarous as bull-baiting.

The Buck, or Blood-hound, has little to do with the Hare; the Otter and Fox-hound (the ſtanch finder excepted) will often join in the hunt, it being very difficult to have a complete kennel of either ſort, ſo firmly ſtanch, but many will freely hunt each others quarry, notwithſtanding Gentlemen breed ever ſo true, which in a great meaſure is owing to ſome caſualty in the entrance of them, or in their entering themſelves when at keeping. At trying young Hounds, great regard ſhould be had to the quarry

they are entered at, becauſe a Dog generally prefers the game he was at firſt uſed to, and blooded with. This few Sportſmen attend to, but, on the contrary, if they can bring their young Hounds to ſtoop and challenge a Cat, Coney, or Red-herring dragged by a ſtring, think themſelves well off with a fine promiſing breed.

The like may be obſerved to ſtand good, in ſome proportion, with reſpect to the ſituation. The Dogs that have been entered in, and accuſtomed to the Champain country, like hunting there, before the low-incloſed turf; ſo low-land Hounds perform better in woodlands and encloſures, than the downs and ſandy heaths.

The time for entering young Dogs * takes place according to the ſeaſon they

* "Bitch puppies ſhould be firſt taken out to hunt at eight months old, and Dogs at ten months." XENOPHON.

Allowance muſt be made for the warmer climate of Greece.

are whelped in; in my judgment they ſhould be a twelve month old, eighteen months is a great age.

LETTER II.

Concerning the Sorts of HARRIERS, *and Difference.*

THE Hounds moſt in uſe and proper for Hare-hunting, may be confined to few ſorts, and each excellent in nature. To wit, the deep-tongued, thick lipped, broad and long-hung ſouthern Hounds.

The fleet ſharp-noſed Dog, ears narrow and pointed, deep cheſted, with thin ſhoulders, portending a quarter of the Fox ſtrain.

The rough wire-haired Hound, thick-quartered, well hung, not too fleſhy ſhouldered

ſhouldered, together with the rough or ſmooth Beagle.

Each of theſe ſorts, as I ſaid before, have there excellencies, &c. It is not poſſible, with juſtice, to commend one before another, for kind, colour or ſervice, preference being given according to the humours and inclinations of Sportſmen, the tribe of whom are very numerous, and, of conſequence, different in opinion.

He that delights in a long chace of ſix hours, often more, and to be in with the Dogs all the time, let him breed of the ſouthern Hounds firſt mentioned, or ſuch heavy Dogs as Suſſex Gentlemen run in the weald. They make good deep baſs muſick, afford great diverſion, and conſidering how dirty the country is, (notwithſtanding a hunt often laſts all day long) fatigue the healthy footman very little.

In an open country where there is good riding, prefer the ſecond ſort, with a quarter of the Fox-ſtrain, theſe ſuit the more eager, active Horſeman, and ſpend their

their tongues generouſly, making delightful harmony, and at the ſame time go at ſuch a rate, a Hare durſt not play many tricks before them; they ſeldom allow her time to loiter, ſhe muſt run and contiuue her foiling or change ſoil, if the latter ſhe dies; keep in Huntſman, freſh ground on the turf, is in ſome degree a continued view, otherwiſe hang your Dogs, (barring no extraordinary accidents of highways and ſheep blemiſh) for I would no more excuſe the loſs of a Hare on freſh ſward, unleſs the Huntſman's fault, which is too often the caſe, than I would a kennel of Fox-hounds loſing Reynard in full chace; the reaſons againſt it in both diverſions are the ſame.

The ſlow Hounds firſt mentioned generally pack beſt. Of the ſecond ſort, many not being of equal ſpeed, (for it is hard to procure an even kennel of faſt Hounds,) will be found to tail, which is an inconveniency, for the hind Dogs labour on to overtake the leading Hounds, and ſeldom or ever ſtop, nor are of the leaſt uſe but

to

to enlarge the cry, unleſs at an over-run, which happens at the top of the morn, for a quarter of a mile together, then the old Hounds, thrown out or tailed, often come up, and hit the fault off.

The ſouthern Dogs are not ſo guilty of running a-head, for as they pack well together, from their equality of ſpeed, (it being eaſier to excel the ſlow than the faſt) at the leaſt balk, there are ten noſes on the ground for one.

The third ſpecies of Hounds mentioned I never ſaw an entire kennel of, being in ſome parts not much encouraged: They are of northen breed, and in great eſteem, being bold Dogs, and by many Huntſmen preferred for the Otter and Martin: In ſome places they are encouraged for Fox-hounds, but bad to breed from, being too ſubject to degenerate and produce thick, low, heavy ſhouldered Dogs unfit for the chace.

Beagles, rough or ſmooth, have their admirers, they ſpend their tongues free in treble or tenor, and go a greater rate than

than the ſouthern Hounds, but tail abominably. They run low to ground, therefore enjoy the ſcent better than taller Dogs, eſpecially when the atmoſphere lies low. In an encloſed country they do beſt, as they muſe with the Hare, and at trailing or default, are pretty good for hedge-rows; yet I have ſeen eighty couple in the field, out of which, in a winter's ſport, I obſerved not four couple that could be depended on, the majority being ſo propenſe to challenge feather or fleak; yet by the aſſiſtance of a clever Huntſman, and the foil well trod, I have ſometimes ſeen pretty diverſion.

Of the two ſorts I prefer the rough, or wire haired, being generally good ſhouldered Dogs, and well filleted.

Smoth haired Beagles are commonly deep hung, thick lipped, and large noſtrilled, but often ſo ſoft, ſolid, and bad quartered, as to be ſhoulder-ſhook and crippled the firſt ſeaſon's hunt, and have frequently that unpardonable fault of

crook

crook legs, like the Tarrier, or right Bath Turnſpit.

I know admirers of this ſort, but they are no favourites of mine, few will endure a tolerable hunt, or at default bear hard charging. After two hours running, obſerve them crippled and down, the Huntſman may go on himſelf, for what aſſiſtance many of them give him, and it is plain from their form and ſhape, (for nature makes nothing in vain) that they are not deſigned for hard exerciſe.

So much for Harriers, a deal may be ſaid for and againſt the ſeveral kinds: It is a wide unſettled point to give opinion upon; but to ſum up the whole in a few words, ſtanch, true Hounds of any ſort, are deſirable, and whoever has them of pretty equal age and ſpeed, with the requiſites of packing and hunting well together, whether ſouthern, northern, Foxſtrain, or Beagle, can boaſt an invaluable advantage in the diverſion, and which few Gentlemen, let them breed ever ſo true, can attain to but in years.

The properties to be conſidered in the choice of a Hound, were ſettled, my Lord, long before you and I were born, and my opinion can be little more than an acquiſition from former ſportſmen. However prefer the Dog of a middling ſize, with his back longer than round, noſe large, with noſtrils bold and wide, cheſt deep and capacious, fillets great and high, haunches large, hams ſtrait, the ſole hard and dry, claws large, ears wide, thin and deep, more round than ſharp, eyes large and protuberant, forehead prominent, and upper lips thick, and deeper than the lower jaw.

The manner of keeping Hounds in kennel, I ſuppoſe I am not expected to enter into, be your Huntſman a fellow of very indifferent judgement, and not one of the moſt naſty lazy raſcals, he will take care to keep his kennel ſweet, his Dogs clean littered, aired and watered, their proviſions ſufficiently boiled, or rather ſtewed. Avoid coarſe, raw and parboiled

fleſh, nothing ſpoils the faculty of ſcenting more.

As to the method of breeding Dogs, I ſhall only obſerve, Gentlemen cannot be too careful, at the proper ſeaſon, of the Sires they want the ſucceſſion from.

A very little ſpoils the litter, and notwithſtanding all the care and vigilance poſſible, litter after litter, ſometimes prove falſe and degenerate, from as high bred creatures as any in the kingdom.

I kept a Bitch in my chamber from the earlieſt tokens of her growing proud, and had her ſo cloſe warded, I could have taken my oath in all the time, ſhe never ſaw any other Dog; yet the whelps inherited few or none of their Sires qualities, nay ſcarce the colour; whence I proved, that a Dog and Bitch of the higheſt blood, may fail of getting tolerable puppies. The like is often experienced among Horſes. How nature errs in this particular (if it may be called an error) I ſubmit to ſome more experienced naturaliſt.

"How Nature erring from herself."
Iago to Othello
act 3. Scene.

Talking with a learned Phyſician (a great connoiſſeur in pointing and ſetting Dogs) upon the ſubject of puppies, he told the following marvellous tale of a Bitch he had of the ſetting kind.

As he travelled from Midhurſt into Hampſhire, going through a country village, the Maſtiffs and Cur-dogs ran out barking, as is uſual when Gentlemen ride by ſuch places; among them he obſerved a little ugly Pedlar's Cur particularly eager and fond of ingratiating himſelf with the Bitch. The Doctor ſtopped to water upon the ſpot, and whilſt his Horſe drank, could not help remarking how amorous the Cur continued, and how fond and courteous the Bitch ſeemed to her admirer; but provoked in the end, to ſee a creature of Phillis's rank and breed, ſo obſequious to ſuch mean addreſſes, drew one of his piſtols and ſhot the Dog dead on the ſpot; then alighted, and taking the Bitch into his arms, carried her before him ſeveral miles. The Doctor relates farther, that madam, from that day,

day, would eat little or nothing, having in a manner loſt her appetite, ſhe had no inclination to go abroad with her maſter, or come when he called; but ſeemed to repine like a creature in love, and expreſs ſenſible concern for the loſs of her gallant.

Partridge ſeaſon came on, but ſhe had no noſe; the Doctor did not take the bird before her. However, in proceſs of time, Phillis waxed proud. The Doctor was heartily glad of it, and phyſically apprehended it would be a means of weaning her from all thoughts of her deceaſed admirer; accordingly he had her confined in due time, and warded by an admirable Setter of high blood, which the Doctor galloped his grey ſtone-horſe forty miles an end to fetch for the purpoſe. And, that no accident might happen from the careleſsneſs of drunken, idle ſervants, the charge was committed to a truſty old woman houſekeeper; and, as abſence from patients would permit, the Doctor aſſiduouſly attended the affair himſelf.

himſelf. But lo! when the days of whelping came, Phillis did not produce one puppy but what was, in all reſpects, the very picture and colour of the poor Dog he had ſhot ſo many months before the Bitch was in heat.

This affair not more ſurprized than enraged the Doctor: For ſome time he differed, almoſt to parting, with his old faithful houſekeeper, being unjuſtly jealous of her care; ſuch behaviour before ſhe never knew from him, but, alas, what remedy? He kept the Bitch many years, yet, to his infinite concern, ſhe never brought a litter, but exactly ſimilar to the Pedlar's Cur. He diſpoſed of her to a friend of his in a neighbouring county, but to no purpoſe, the vixen ſtill brought ſuch Puppies. Whence the Doctor tenaciouſly maintained, Bitch and Dog may fall paſſionately in love with each other.

That ſuch creatures, eſpecially the female, may at particular times like, or prefer, I grant the Doctor; but how the

impreſſion of the Dog (admitting to favour him there was any) could occaſion ſimilitude in the iſſue of the Bitch, and for a continuance of years, after the Dog's death, nobody but the Doctor is capable of defending, who to this day relates and juſtifies the truth of every circumſtance I have mentioned. So much for Dogs, Harriers eſpecially. I hope the digreſſion will be pardoned, and, if not diſagreeable, I ſhall proceed with a page on the Quarry.

LETTER

LETTER III.

The Sorts and Difference of HARES, *being of no leſs Signification than the preceding Letters.*

A Hare is called by Sportſmen, within the firſt year a Leveret, at twelve months old a Hare; at two years old and ſo on, a great, a large, or a ſlamming Hare. I never heard them diſtinguiſhed by other names, nor do I know more proper.

The derivation of the term is not at all momentous to the Huntſman; he is ſenſible when he ſees her every body calls ſuch

ſuch a creature a Hare. Your Lordſhip knows the Ancients called this animal by various appellations.

The Hebrews called the Hare **Arnebeth*, which being feminine, poſſeſſed the ge-

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* ארנבת, the Hare, from ארה to *crop*, and ניב the *produce of the earth*, theſe animals being very remarkable for deſtroying the fruits of the earth. The learned BOCHART, who gives this interpretation of the wordt excellently defends it, by ſhewing from hiſtory, tha theſe animals have, at different times deſolated the iſlands of Aſtypalæa, Lens, and Carpathus. To this account for the ſake of the learned Reader, I ſhall add the following elegant lines concerning theſe animals from *Bargeus Cygneget*, lib. iii. by which it appears, they are great devourers of all kind of herbs and vegetables:

" Decerpunt læti turgentia gramina campi,
" Et culmos ſegetum, et fibras tellure repoſtas
" Herbarum, et lento morſus in cortice figunt
" Arboris, atque udos attondent undique libros;
" Nec parcunt ſtrato pomarum, aut glandis acervo,
" Aut viciæ, aut milio, aut proceræ frondibus ulmi,
" Præcipue gratæ ſylveſtria gramina menthæ
" Quæque colunt riguas in culto Syſimbria valles,
" Et vaga ſerpilla, et pulegi nobile gramen
" Percipiunt." PARKHURST Heb. Lex.

I have been informed by a Gentleman of experience and obſervation, that he has found Haws in the droppings of Hares during hard weather.

L nerality

nerality with a notion, no Hares were maſculine, and the opinion ſo much prevailed, that to this day not one man in a thouſand occaſionally talks of a Hare, but ſpeaks in the feminine gender, and uſes the epithets Her or She. The Greeks ſometimes called the Hare Λαγώς, for his immoderate luſt; at other times πτωξ, implying extraordinary fear. The Latins, *Lepus quaſi levi pes*, or Lightfoot, denoting ſwiftneſs of feet.

As to any real difference in the ſpecies *, I confeſs myſelf no judge, I always found they correſponded in ſhape and ſimilarity; but to exceed, like other creatures, in ſize and abilities, which I conceive proceeds from nothing more than their difference of feed and ſituation, and may be ranged under the few diſtinctions of the

* Xenophon ſays, "There are two ſpecies of Hares, "one large, mottled with black, and a great deal of "white in the forehead; the other leſs, of a yellowiſh "color, and having little white." He alſo obſerves, that "mountain Hares are the ſwifteſt, thoſe bred in a plain "country, leſs ſo, and marſh Hares the ſloweſt of any."

down

down Hare, the field or encloſure Hare, the marſhy and wood-land Hare.

The mountain or down Hares feed ſhort and ſweet, breathe a fine air and enjoy an extenſive compaſs for exerciſe, they are found to excel in ſtrength or celerity, and ſtand a hunt longer than any Hares. In dry ſeaſons they commonly make excurſions into the vales for diverſion and relief, and I have remarked myſelf, and have learned from Shepherds and Hare-finders, (by ſome Wags not unjuſtly called **Myopers*) that Hares are never more plenty on the hills than in wet weather; the reaſon of which is plain, they feed, form, and exerciſe on drier turf than the vallies afford.

Every Down Hare has a multitude of ſeats, which (as the weather directs) ſhe changes from time to time, and from practice to ſome innate principle, returns to again provided ſhe quitted on her own accord and undiſturbed.

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* From Μυω winking the eyes, q. d. μυων ὠπας

The enclosure, marshy, or woodland Hares are experienced to be slower, weaker, and more unfit to endure hard hunting than the down Hares, the situation and manner of their living being opposite, they relieve on too rank strong food, and that too near their forms, their circle of exercise is more confined, and liable to disturbance, and the air they breathe is less pure and correct, whence proceeds pursiness and short wind. Of this sort are the Hares in the wealds, many of which I have seen when paunched with ulcerate lungs and unsound.

*There are another sort of Hares to be met with (though very seldom) different from either of the kinds mentioned, that

* "Those Hares that wander in all places are most "puzzling in the chace, for they know the nearest ways, "they generally run up hill or on level ground, if they "find any uneven ground they run over it in an irregular "manner, but very seldom run down hill." XENOXHON.

Mr. Pennant in his British Zoology remarks, that a Hare when started, always makes to a rising ground, which he attributes to the length of her hind legs.

wander

wander about like vagrants, living at large, and with indifference, in all places, ſeating vaſtly uncertain, ſometimes in the encloſure, hedge-row, brake, or ſtrong covert, at other times in the open common or fields. Theſe are the Hares for diverſion, and moſt difficult to judge off, and dangerous to purſue. They ramble through the barn-yard in the night, and diſregard the gaunt growling Maſtiff, traverſe the orchard and garden, intrepid and fearleſs, explore the dangerous pond head, nor dread the roaring waters, regale on the virgin graſs, or tender clover, or young turnip, or (as ſome hidden cauſe directs) neglect them all, fonder to bark, or browſe the budding twig.

When ſtarted, they ſeldom keep any certain ring, but drive on irregularly, trying all ſorts of ground, the turf, the hard highway, the watery puddle, or dry duſty fallow, and lead the weary Sportſman many a painful ſtep, and through many a dangerous paſſage.

Theſe

Theſe are the old Witches, that afford inexhauſtible ſubjects after Hunting, that make the glaſs paſs briſk about, the cheeks glow, chins wag, and every faultering tongue provoke, that the whole edifice reſounds the continued boiſterous roar, impatient each to over hunt or recount his part. The inexperienced audience, to every orator by turns, attention deal; but if the Huntſman deigns the view to hollow, or foil over hunt again, ſudden ſilence reigns, and raviſhed with the deafening clamour of the purſuit, with eager infatuation, all applaud, and the moſt apocryphal tales aſſent to and believe; whilſt he! wretch arbitrary, (though illiterate) with ignorance and pride, native to himſelf, aſcribes ſome paſſages, notable in the chace, to his own good judgment and underſtanding; others, leſs remarkable, to the poor Hare's contrivance and cunning.

As I am entered upon the ſubject of Hares, it may not be impertinent to obſerve, how kind Providence has been in

the

the formation of this animal; and it is well, indeed, nature has been ſo beneficent, there being ſcarce a creature breathing, wild or domeſtic, but is an enemy to the poor defenceleſs Hare. Birds of the air, as well as beaſts of the field, ſeem in perpetual war with her. The very reptile Adder will kill the old Hare, paſſive and defenceleſs in the combat: Nor does the Leveret feed the ſmall circle about its little home, ſecure and unmoleſted by the deſpicable Bat and Owl. Wherefore as the moſt proper means for preſervation, (amidſt ſuch a numerous tribe of enemies) nature has kindly endowed her with a temper exceſſive timid, continually watchful, and liſtening, and ever eager, even to raſhneſs, to turn from the moſt trifling approach of danger; all her dependance, being in that talent alone, and which the wiſe Contriver of all things, has ordained every part to aſſiſt and compleat. If not unworthy, pray take a ſurvey, of this little creature; this wonder of animals: Not more the charm and delight

of

of the Sportſman, than his Beagles. No creature in the univerſe, leaves a more grateful enchanting ſcent, than the Hare; the ſmell of the Martin is not more raviſhing to the Hounds. Pleaſe to view his ſhort round head; look how extremely proper and excellently faſhioned it is for flight. Was he to maintain himſelf, or ſeize his food by means of celerity, a longer noſe and head, would have been much more expedient and neceſſary.

See how long the ears, how large and open, how fixed on the head, and when pricked how cloſe together point, nicely calculated to hear the enemy at a diſtance, and receive timely warning of the leaſt approach of danger.

The eyes ingeniouſly placed on each ſide, divided by the whole breadth of the forehead, not ſituated in the front like a Dog or Cat's eyes, to ſee only the ſegment of a circle forward, but ſideways, to obſerve almoſt a whole circle, being formed ſo as to turn any way, to ſpy impending dangers from all quarters,

ters*, and ſecure himſelf in time. A farther remark, and worthy obſervation, is, the creature, waking or ſleeping, perpetually watches; his eyes being continually open and ſo protuberant, round and large, the lids are far too ſhort to cover them even when at ſleep.

View the breaſt, how narrow, and at ſame time how deep and capacious the cheſt; for as the lungs are in a continual ſtate of violent expanſions, during the time he is hunted, and by the prodigious frequent inſpiration and expiration, become in the end ſo vaſtly diſtended, as to require a much larger ſpace than is aſſigned for the purpoſe, the cheſt therefore is faſhioned to receive more breath, or give the lungs more room to perform their office, almoſt than any creature.

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* Xenophon, who is minutely accurate in his deſcription of this animal, obſerves, that "When ſhe wakes ſhe "winks her eyelids, but when ſhe ſleeps ſhe keeps them "continually open, without motion, having her eyes "fixed."

Take notice of the back, how ſtraight, and rather long for covering more ground in running, and well filleted or double-reined, for ſtrength in the performance

The ſcut ſhort and high, haunches wide, large and ſinewy, legs ſtraight and proportionably long, with ſuch feet no creature in the animal creation can boaſt. Now I have mentioned the feet, permit me to obſerve a common notion, I might ſay an error, there being ſeveral egregious ones about Hares; but the following, I don't doubt you have not only heard but read of; and that is, if you aſk ſeveral Sportſmen, why a low-land encloſure, or marſh Hare, endures not Hunting ſo long as the hilly or up-land Hare, the anſwer frequently is, that the former generally fill themſelves too full of paſture before the form, and that, by frequent treading on the ſoft turf and moiſt paths, become far more tender-footed, and unfit to bear hard running, than the up-hill Hare, that uſes the hard highways and dry turf, which is to be

met

met with, three parts of the year, on the downs or hilly land.

As to the firſt of ſuch Hunters, or Writers ſo ſeeming plain reaſons, I beg their pardon, but moſt abſolutely diſagree with their opinion, it being more plain and natural to believe, ſuch Hares never fill themſelves too full, as they call it. Unerring Nature, doubtleſs, inſtructs them better than to over-eat themſelves, or gorge ſo much to retard them in their celerity, which is their only defence, and preſervation; it cannot be I am poſſitive. The poor fearful creatures ſatisfy Nature, and no more; their time of feeding begins according to the ſeaſon, and ends about the certain time, afterwards a proper ſpace is duly employed in drying, airing, exerciſing, and ſporting, till the approach of morning warns them to ſeek or return to their proper retirements.

They do not glutton on their food, like the wiſe Heads that hunt them. Eat, for the cheer is dainty, we may meet with none like it to-morrow. But rather, too often

often before Nature is contented retire, moleſted and alarmed in the night, to ſome adjoined thicket, and there finiſh their repaſt, on the ſhaded ſpray or ſour herb; happy in their ſafety and ſolitude. Or ſometimes, as Nature dictates, when the ſouthern tempeſt pours down the dreadful torrent, or the chilling north ſpreads the ſurface with his ſilvered mantle, ſit cloſe in form, till better times enſue; content with no repaſt.

Whether this opinion with thoſe Sportſmen who judge of Hares immoderate eating by themſelves, and becauſe they have experienced an impediment in their heels, from a crammed belly, think Hares meet with the ſame, may be of any weight, I cannot ſay nor do I care: I have a better opinion of honeſt faithful Nature's dictates, than their idle whims and notions. As to the other part offered, that low-land Hares are tender footed, I proteſt, I ſmile at the thought of ſuch a ſhallow opinion. Tender feet in Dogs are owing to the ſoftneſs of their ſoles, or

that

that fleſhy ſubſtance called the ball or toes of the feet. This tenderneſs is natural to ſome, and is a fault in the breed, one of their excellencies (being as before mentioned) hard dry ſoles; in others it proceeds from diſuſe, in which it is ſoon remedied, moderate exerciſe every day, will ſoon bring the feet into order, and make them ſufficiently hard, to endure diverſion.

But as to the Hare being tender in her feet, a little obſervation may convince ſuch caſuiſts of their miſtake; Nature having been in this particular ſingularly liberal to the poor Hare, by ſupplying her with ſuch feet, as are abſolutely free from, and not ſubject to tenderneſs; or ſcarce ſuſceptible of hurt, ſo as to incommode, or retard her in running.

Pray obſerve what a ſmall web there is between the claws, and the admirable deficiency of ſoles or toes underneath! With ſubmiſſion, what hath ſhe to fear then from the flinty highway, the uneven ſevere froſty path, the poignant bramble, or piercing black-thorn? Nothing

thing---the balls of her feet being ſupplied, inſtead of hard fleſh, with a ſtrong coarſe fur, ſuited ſo charmingly for the purpoſe, that ſhe treads ſoft, run what road ſhe will; and never eaſier, or more to advantage, than on the hardeſt beaten path, or ſtony rugged road. The very ſurface that cripples a Dog, ſhe glides over with eaſe and pleaſure. Take notice in a froſt, for the reaſons advanced, what advantage ſhe has in running, ſuperior to moſt creatures; whilſt the generous ſteed founders with moderate gallops, and the fleet Greyhound ſtarts his claws, and tears his ſoles to pieces, on the rugged froſty paths; ſhe treads ſoft, as if ſhe went on woolpacks, or rebounds and leaps upon her very claws. View her again on the merry highway, though ſhe ſkims over the clay and puddle, like an arrow from the bow, yet leaps ſo tender, the ſurface is ſcarce bruſhed by her tread. But enough, I ſhall only farther advance to ſuch tender footed brethren one reaſon, and a true one, why a low-land

Here

Hare, or by what appellation they chuſe to diſtinguiſh her, may on experience, prove leſs fit to labour, or hard Hunting, than the up-land Hare, inſtead of a too great plenitude or tenderneſs of feet, is occaſioned from the too ſtrong or rank feed, (I don't mean the quantity but quality) and confined circle for exerciſe; whence proceeds ſhort wind and purſineſs.

LETTER IV.

Some Perfections of the HARE, *and remarkable Qualities of other* CREATURES, *very proper to be read, or not read.*

NOtwithſtanding the arguments already made uſe of, in deſcribing ſeveral parts of the Hare, and how each is adapted to contribute towards the preſervation of the whole; methinks I hear you ſay what! is this extraordinary creature ſo complete, as to have no fault? Does this wonder of animals ſuffer no inconveniency from any

any of thoſe fine parts ſhe is compoſed of? Few creatures in the animal, or other creation, are formed abſolutely perfect and free from blemiſh. How comes the Hare ſo frequently to loſe her life, and in ſuch a ſimple manner? How happens ſhe ſo often to run headlong into viſible danger; into the Traveller's open arms, or Houſe-cur's jaws, without diſcretion enough to turn to right or left, to avoid ſuch accidents?

To this may be anſwered, the poor Hare is far from being without failings, nay, on the contrary, hath numberleſs imperfections. The very excellence of running from, or avoiding one danger, notoriouſly drives her head-long into another, till ſhe meets her ruin. She is too often ſtupid and ſenſeleſs of the danger that lies moſt apparent, and plain as poſſible, which has occaſioned innumerable arguments among Huntſmen, and many reaſons have been given for it by Naturaliſts, to you I ſubmit the following:

Firſt, I beg to obſerve, notwithſtanding the deſcription given of Hares ears, and how advantageouſly ſituated, there is an inconveniency attends them, which perhaps never happened within the conſideration of ſeveral good Sportſmen. It is natural for mankind, who have never reflected on the matter, to think, becauſe they have an ear on each ſide the head, and can liſten to a Kennel of Hounds, whether they run to right or left, ſtraight forward or backward, that a Hare can do the ſame; upon my word thoſe who think ſo are egregiouſly miſtaken, a Hare under purſuit has the ſaddeſt imperfect aſſiſtance from her ears ſtraight before or ſideways, that can poſſibly be, her chief excellence being only in a ſenſibility of the ſounds that lie behind her. This is the perfection and primary cauſe ſhe owes her preſervation to, her talent of running being only a ſecondary quality.

It is this ability warns her in time to ſteal from form, and deceive the creeping Poacher;

Poacher; by this bleſſing ſhe outſtrips the fleet Greyhound, attentive to the noiſe of every ſtretch, and ſound of every pant. Or when ſtarted by the ſagacious Pack, to continue her courſe, with reſolute expedition, till quite free from their clamour; yet, at the ſame time, miſapprehenſive, and deaf to the noiſe of enemies before, alone intent and all her faculties employed, on that ſingle point of hearing, and running from the danger that purſues.

I ſhall be laughed at, perhaps, by half the Hunters in England, for advancing ſuch a ſeeming improbability; but upon my word it is true. Talk with any Anatomiſt, that has inſpected the ſtructure of this creature's ears, and he will give you reaſons in juſtification of what I have laid down.

As the only preſervation a Hare has is flying from danger, how natural and plain is it for a common underſtanding, to reconcile the neceſſity of her being endued with ſuch a proper aſſiſting ſen-

ſation, whereby ſhe may receive timely information of the diſtant or near approach of the enemy.

Without ſuch quickneſs of hearing from behind, a Hare might run blind, or to death, after ſhe was out of harm's way, for want of being ſenſible of it. I challenge all the Huntſmen in Great Britain, that are of veracity, to ſay, a freſh Hare, ſtarted or courſed, ever ſtops or turns her head to look back; how is ſhe ſenſible, then, ſhe is clear from the enemy that purſued her? She has no eyes backwards. True, but ſhe has ears that anſwer the purpoſe.

I have heard it confidently maintained by ſeveral, and have read in Authors, who were more Huntſmen in ſpeculation than practice, that a Hare's ears lead the way when ſhe is hunted: "With one, (ſay they,) "ſhe hearkeneth to the cry of "of the Hounds, and the other ſtretched "forth like a ſail, to promote her "courſe." Ridiculous notion! Whenever ſhe pricks her ears an end, or draw

draws one a-part, or more forward than the other, it is to hearken more distinct and nice on that side the forwardest ear is, and not like a sail to promote her course.

Had Nature designed any singular aid to her feet from stretching forth the ears, she would have supplied her with two pair; one to lie flat on the shoulders for listening, whilst she sailed by the other; and she never would have more occasion for both than when severely coursed, at which time the ears she has may be observed to lie flat on her neck; and though she is obliged, on this occasion, to play all her tricks to escape, to try the wind every way for advantage, yet, in all the shifts she makes, I never observed this quality of sailing by the ear, both being strictly engaged on receiving the smallest sound of the Greyhound behind, by which she accordingly, more or less, retards or increases her celerity. There is nothing more plain and certain, than that Providence hath endued every creature with some

ſome excellence peculiar to itſelf. To one endowments proper for preſervation and defence, to another means neceſſary for the attainment of food and nouriſhment.

Aſk a Country Fellow at duſk of the evening, why yon Owl ſits on the barn door, or perches upon the gate-poſt, rail, or beam? He will preſently inform you, he is watching for a mouſe. But a man that is no very eminent Naturaliſt knows the Owl is hearkening rather than looking for a Mouſe, for Owls have ears, and delicate ones, I aſſure you, on which they depend for their ſuſtenance, in an equal, nay greater degree than the eyes. Their ears give them the firſt and earlieſt notice of the motion of prey, long before it comes into view for the eyes to diſtinguiſh it. Yet, though it may be granted Owls hearken, as well as look for prey, I would not have you think becauſe they have ears, they hear all manner of ways. No, they have no good uſe of them, but from what happens beneath; their hearing

ing is very imperfect before, or sideways, nor have they any advantage at all in hearing what happens above. Admit they had, to what use or purpose would it tend? They have not the least hope or expectation of Mice hanging over their heads, but the contrary. All creatures, as I said before, boast some peculiar excellence. The crafty Fox that scouts about, and hath various means of acquiring subsistance depends greatly on a talent of hearing from above superior to most, and equal to all creatures. What principle do you imagine directs him on his patrols, to lurk underneath, or climb the pear or plumb tree where the poultry roost? Not so much his eyes as his ears: A feather is scarce moved but he hears it.

On the other hand, the vigorous wild or Pole-cat's blessing consists in hearing directly forward, deaf as an Adder (when he is prowling) to prey or danger behind. I offer this not as conjecture, but matter of certainty, the animal's ears being constructed for such singularities, especially

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the "passage directing to the *os petrosum*, "which, in an Owl's ear, is produced "farther out above than below, for the "greater and better reception of sound "from below. In a Fox exactly the "contrary, and calculated to intercept the "nicest noise from above; in a Cat far be-"hind, to take the forward sound; but "the ear of a Hare is supplied with a "tube directed extremely backward." As I already said, she dreads no danger so much as what lies behind her, therefore her ears are capable, by reason of such backward tubes, of receiving the smallest sound that happens from that quarter. I could instance notable differences in the ears of other creatures, but it being foreign to my purpose, shall proceed to another well experienced deficiency of the poor Hare, which is her want of sight.

* Almost every one has experienced

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* "When she is pursued, the fear of the Dogs and Hun-"ters takes away her presence of mind, on which account "she often runs unknowingly against many things, and "sometimes falls into the snare." XENOPHON.

that

that a Hare ſees very imperfect ſtraight forward; a ſad inconvenieney you will ſay, not to ſee well, nor hear the immediate danger that is ſeemingly ſo plain: Why really ſo it is, and the means of ſhortening her little life, frequently much ſooner than the moſt violent hunt would do.

I have often heard ſay, when a Hare has been knocked down, or catched by a Dog relaid, that ſhe ran herſelf blind, which is a notion of the moſt vulgar and illiterate ſpecies.

Some maintain Hares to be of the tribe of nocturnal animals, that cannot ſee well in the day, their eyes being much the ſame as Cats or Owls, and of a contexture ſuſceptible of far nicer touches of the rays of light, than creatures more habituated to day-light.

It is true, I am no Oculiſt, nor competent judge of the ſtructure of eyes, but if common reaſon may be attended to, (which every man has a right to offer,) it is natural to conjecture, night or day is

 indif-

indifferent to the Hare, and that ſhe only prefers the former to relieve in, it being the moſt peaceable time, and freeſt from danger. The diſadvantage of wanting quick ſight before, in my opinion, may chiefly be accounted for from the ſituation of the eyes being fixed in the head, at a diſtance far from each other, like Horſes; and to ſee forward perfect, requires ſome ſuch contrivance as the eye-leathers that Waggoners have at their horſes collars, the better to occaſion the eyes being directed more forward than backward; for as they are formed to turn in the ſockets all ways, forward to the noſe, upward, downward, or back toward the ſhoulders, it needs no great fund of philoſophy to judge, that by ſo much as the eyes are turned out of the centre of ſight to look upward, ſuch a proportion is wanting to ſee downward; and ſo much as they are ſtrained toward the noſe to ſee forward, ſo much is required for ſight backward, ſuppoſing the head to be ſteady and fixed, which is the

caſe

eaſe with the Hare that runs faſt; at other times ſhe turns and manages her head as ſhe pleaſes. But in an even poſture of the body the eyes appear ſituated to ſee quickeſt and beſt, full on each ſide. Whence it ariſes, that the reaſon a Hare, when hunted or courſed, ſees not ſo clear directly forward, is, that being chiefly intent and apprehenſive of the danger behind, ſhe employs all her ſenſes, all her judgment, to eſcape that danger; and the more effectually to accompliſh it, depends not alone on the ears, but, by endeavouring to ſee it, ſtrains her eyes as backward as poſſible, according to the degree of terror ſhe is in; inſomuch, that for want of a due proportion of the eyes employed before, ſhe becomes in a manner blind to the enemy that lies ſo apparent. Any perſon may experience truths of this ſort that will caſt his eyes upward, downward, or from ſide to ſide, he will ſoon find, when he points them one way, how imperfect his ſight is the other.

Whether a Hare's eyes receive any inconveniency from being ſo large, full, and convex, I do not pretend to determine. Oculiſts ſay, ſuch eyes at proper diſtances, ſee objects (in proportion to the degree of convexity) more perfect and large than thoſe leſs convex; or if the eyes ſuffer damage, by being expoſed night and day to duſts and inſects, becauſe the lids do not cover them completely, I know not; but be what will the cauſe, it is certain, Hares do not ſee ſo perfect before as ſideways, or aſlant.

And indeed, Nature in ſome meaſure has compenſated this want, and likewiſe that of hearing, by a moſt incomparable ſenſe of ſmelling; I do not mean the ſort of ſmelling peculiar to Hounds, but a ſpecies that Sportſmen term winding; being that quality, when a Dog holds up his noſe, which he winds carrion by, or a ſpringing Spaniel the bird when ſhot: A Hare has this talent in nice perfection. Take your ſtand in a moſt private corner, if ſhe has the wind, you will ſeldom ſee

her

her but at a diſtance; and though you may happen to ſpy her far off, making boldly towards you, mark her, in due time ſhe will break the road, and take ſome other track. Yet I muſt obſerve, notwithſtanding this happy endowment ſecures her from the lurking Poacher, it often fails to fruſtrate the ſnarer's deeper deſigns; he, crafty knave, turns this perfection advantageouſly to his purpoſe, for having found where a Hare relieves, and being unprepared with engines, the reeving purſe-net, or elaſtic wire, to ſecure every mueſe and track, ambiguous which to prefer, breathes but on the turf, or ſpits his ſaliva on ſome neighbouring clod or ſtone, or bending ſpray. Madam, on return, diſdains thoſe roads, ſenſible of the ſtain; others to purſue, that harbour certain death: Fatal retreat! There falls experienced Puſs! (pride of the fair Sportſman) undiſtinguiſhed and unknown!---Methinks I hear you commiſerate her, but how ſhould it be otherwiſe? Can animals explore inſidious

dious man's deſigns, or pervade his crafty wiles?

A word on the breeding of Hares, and I ſhall proceed to the ſeveral parts of hunting them. Some are of opinion Hares propagate but once a year; I am inclined to think, from February to the end of harveſt, they breed often, otherwiſe I cannot account for the plenty there are.

The Does bring two, and frequently but one. I have ſeen three, but very rare. I once diſcourſed as arrant a Pot-hunter as ever England bred, that lived on the borders of South Wales, and had not ſcrupled to kill a Buck or Doe at any ſeaſon for fifty years together, who affirmed he never ſaw or killed a female Hare that had, or gave ſuck to three, in his life.

The Doe makes choice of ſome thick dry brake, high graſs, clover, or ſtanding corn, to kindle in; her paps come forwarder under her belly than almoſt any quadrupede; ſhe does not long ſuckle her young,

young, if ſhe did, and had many, the udder would be drawn too big, and lie inconvenient in running. She brings forth different from the Coney, her offspring being completely furred and quick-ſighted, the inſtant they are dropped.

It is a remark at the death of a Leveret, if there are white hairs on the forehead there is another of the ſame breed; I have ſeen three found by the harveſt-men near of a ſize, and not one of them had a ſtar; wherefore I am inclined to believe it a vulgar error.

The three Leverets were the moſt in number I ever ſaw, that in appearance were the ſame kindling. I have heard among Sportſmen (remarkable for the marvellous) of ſix or ſeven young ones at once, but, from ſuch ſtrangers to truth, I never could bring myſelf to credit it. A certain Baronet, long ſince dead, delighted in getting a ſet of Huntſmen and Fiſhermen together, than both of whom there are not greater liars under the canopy of Heaven,

Heaven, purely for the ſatisfaction of outlying them.

It is a received opinion among Naturaliſts, that a Hare ſeldom lives above ſeven years, eſpecially the Buck, and that when either is killed, another comes and occupies the place; whence happens the Proverb, *The more Hares you kill, the more you will have to hunt*, for when Buck and Doe, live undiſturbed together a little time, they ſuffer no ſtranger to reſide within their limits*.

There is alſo a well experienced truth, that ſome places are remarkable for being ſeldom without Hares, and others (though as likely in human conjecture as poſſible) ſeldom with any. Whether it is any particular excellence in the feed, ſituation for

* I am ſurprized the Author did not here introduce the notion, mentioned by Xenophon, and confirmed by Pliny, of Hares conceiving again before they bring forth their firſt young. Sir Thomas Brown, in his Treatiſe on Vulgar Errors, (a Work in which he would be naturally cautious of introducing the marvellous,) aſſerts this circumſtance from his own obſervation.

forming

forming advantageouſly for warmth, hearing or ſeeing, that induces them to prefer certain parts to others, or that on the death of a Buck or Doe, another ſucceeds, and they poſſeſs their uſual circle, I do not pretend to reconcile. So much for Hares. Now for the Dogs and Huntſman, both of whom it will be neceſſary to ſuppoſe in the field, whether kennel or pack does not ſignify* : It muſt be underſtood in the language of Hunters, it is a kennel of Hounds, but twenty or a hundred couple of Beagles make but a pack.

* This is a diſtinction entirely obſolete.

LETTER V.

Of TRAILING *and* STARTING, *with* DIRECTIONS *to the* HUNTSMAN.

HArd Hunting commences about Michaelmas, and ſhould end (would Gentlemen encourage the breed) the middle of February. As I have ſuppoſed the Huntſman abroad, and Dogs caſt off, we may as well imagine one or other has made a challenge.

For trailing no rules can be laid down with certainty, it depends on the judgment of the Huntſman, and his juſt know-

knowledge of the ſeveral good and bad properties of his Dogs. A kennel of of the beſt Hounds in Great Britain, are not (I may affirm cannot be) all alike: Some are good for trailing and ſtarting; others excellent when the Hare is on foot; others again, for hitting off defaults, running the double, or hot foil, or making good the hard ways.

Some Huntſmen, the inſtant they find where a Hare has relieved, trouble themſelves not at all about trailing to her, but proceed with the company to threſhing the hedges for a wide compaſs, many of whom, being ſo ſparing of their pains, as often beat over, as beat a Hare up. For my part, trailing fairly and ſtarting, I think, the niceſt part of the whole paſtime, provided wind and weather permit.

It is an undetermined point at trail or cold hunting, whether the Dogs challenge from any particular effluvia that tranſpired from the feet of a Hare, or remains of breath, that in her feeding

and exercise intermixed with and soiled the pasture and herbage. Was it from the foot alone, the moist path would be easier to challenge upon than the verdant sward. I have heard sturdy Casuists on both sides, but so void of sense and reason, little more than the strongest arm has determined the point. In my opinion, notwithstanding the majority may be against me, I confess myself prejudiced in favour of the latter.

If the Hounds challenge on the relief, it is a point of judgment not to let them puzzle and stick, but to rate them together, and to make it good round the fences the sooner the better. Now the Huntsman must depend absolutely upon his Dogs; the tender nosed Hound generally hits it first, and is very often unjustly deemed a babbler, because a tougher Dog does not make good what he opens upon; whereas the difference too often is, that one Hound's nose is so exquisitely delicate, as to enjoy a scent twice as stale as another.

Observe

Obſerve Damſel, or loquacious Dainty, open cheerily, the whole pack run in, not one, for want of equal talents, approves. But as they proceed to warmer ſcent, if Truman or Ruler (ſtaunch old Counſellors, never known to give opinion, but certainty, the effect of long experience) gravely undertake to peruſe the caſe, and, on due conſideration, challenge, but in ſingle notes, the whole kennel (in ſcience Brethren and Collegues) from every quarter hurry, and with general yelp confirm the ſound report; whilſt the aſſiduous Huntſman, glad at heart, in oratory of his own, proclaims it good.

It is ſurprizing what a notable confidence preſides among Hounds, in proportion to the reality of each others aſſurances. The moſt rigid ſincere perſon upon the earth cannot deteſt or leſs credit the notorious cheat or liar, than a ſtaunch Hound one that opens falſe, or ſpends his tongue free to little purpoſe.

You

You may tell me the compariſon is unnatural; but what can be more like the Hound that ſticks a long time and continues opening upon one ſpot, than the man who is a tedious while telling a Canterbury tale, or talks perpetually upon part of a ſubject.

What like the Babbler more than he who prates and rattles upon all ſubjects with confidence, and underſtands no one.

The notes of the Hounds are certain language in the ears of the Huntſman, and what he depends upon more than the judgment of all his friends in the field.

According to the length of time a Hare has been gone to form, do they more or leſs aſſure him of their likelihood to ſtart. At the moſt diſtant part of her morning's exerciſe, where the tendereſt noſed Dog can but touch of the ſcent, the true-muſical Hound opens ſingle; perhaps a long holding note, or (according to the Dog) only what ſome people call a chop. As they gather on towards her, each old Sophiſter confirms

confirms his firſt opinion by an additional note, and doubles his tongue. When near her form, and the ſcent lies warm and ſtrong, all double and treble their notes.

Beware of the counter-trail, which may happen when Dogs are caſt off, ſo as to challenge about the middle of her works, or nearer the form than the feed; there the ſcent lies ſo equal, that the Dogs, over eager and buſy, often hit the heel-way, or draw amiſs: This the Huntſman muſt judge of by the notes his Dogs firſt challenge in. If they double and carry it on counter, they will ſoon ſignify their error, by opening only ſingle; for inſtead of the ſcent lying hotter, and encreaſing upon their noſes, it is the contrary, and dwindles to no ſcent at all.

Young Hares tread more deep and heavy* than old ones, becauſe the younger

* "The ſcent of young Hares is ſtronger than that of "full grown ones, for their limbs being tender, the "whole body drags on the ground.—At full moon the "trail is moſt irregular for rejoicing, in the light they play "together, and throwing themſelves make long inter-"vals." XENOPHON.

they

they are the weaker the joints. At full moon they make moſt work, and go a great diſtance, relieving upon any ſort of feed; eſpecially that which grows within ſhade of the hedge-rows and trees. At this time Buck and Doe oftenes aſſociate together.

Another point muſt be obſerved, that all Hares do not leave an equal degree of ſcent. The down Hares leave the leaſt. Encloſure, woodland, and marſhy Hares the moſt, eſpecially ſhe that forms in the plaſhy ground, or near the river ſide or wet ditch; ſhe leaves a ſtrong ſcent, being commonly diſtempered and unhealthy.

The reaſon low-land Hares ſmell ſtronger than the down Hares, proceeds from the ſuperior rankneſs of their food, and the effluvia in woods and incloſures, being far better defended from wind and air than on the bleak downs.

All Hares leave more ſcent going to. than from relief, and never ſmell ſo ſtrong, as when they paſture on young corn;

corn, which requires ſo little conſideration to account for, I ſhall for brevity's ſake omit it, and return to the Huntſman, who we will ſuppoſe on good trail, and the Hounds doubling and trebling.

About this time I ſuppoſe he is endeavouring to judge whereabout ſhe may ſit; if he is clever and lucky in this particular, it not only proceeds from eſteem, but that deſirable token of it field-money, which makes many a man neglect his Dogs, too much, in good trail, to myope about in the hedges and brakes, in expectation of a ſo-ho! To eſpy a Hare no rules can be laid down, ſhe generally forms uncertain; whoever looks for her muſt have the idea of a Hare ſeated ſtrongly pictured in his mind.

They very ſeldom chuſe to form in high woods in autumn, becauſe the leaves, acorns, and beech-maſt, are continually falling; and in wet weather drops from the trees diſturb them. They rather prefer the dry brake, hedge, or ſtubble.

In January, February, and March, Gentlemen hunt in ſome parts till the twenty-fifth, they ſeat moſt uncertain, and wander ſuch a vaſt circuit, an indifferent Huntſman may trail all day long, and not ſtart. What adds to their uncertain forming, beſides the ſeaſon of bucking, is, they are ſo liable under warm dry hedges and brambles, to be peſtered with Piſmires, or moleſted with Vipers, and ſuch vermin, that they prefer the open fields and plowed lands.

Let us imagine, that by this time the Huntſman has cried, ſo-ho! Obſerve how the Heroes preſs together, and parley over the imagined victim. Pride of their eager hearts, and glory of the field! How each (e'er ſhe leaps from form) wiſely pronounces or ſize or gender. The unexperienced youth, with eyes convulſed, and phyz diſtort and pale, in imperfect, haſty ſtammers, proclaims a ſlamming Bitch; whilſt ſome graver Sire (whom age and experience bid be poſitive) with paralitic nods, and aſpect ſour, portend-

portending contradiction, affirms ſhe is ſmall and young, learned, ſage! Others, in joyful confuſion, amaze, and ſuſpence, ſcarce diſtinguiſh whether it is a Hare or not. The Huntſman, on whom for ſuperior knowledge each dependent is, from maxims of his own, arbitrarily decides the ſex. But to ſuch Wiſeacres, who pretend with certainty from the whiteneſs of one part, or redneſs of another, to diſtinguiſh Buck from Doe, it may be ſaid, there is but male and female; and the man, who never ſaw a Hare in his life, but declares his opinion at random, it is a toſs up if he is not as often right as the wiſeſt of them. But to proceed, as we have imagined a ſo-ho! we may as well ſuppoſe ſhe is actually on foot. Hark! the hills and woods reſound the loud acclaim.

Now the leaden-heeled Hind and brawny Peaſant, with hob-nailed ſhoone, labour o'er the clod; the inſect world tremble at their tread, the hardy Woodman ſpeeds from toil, the Plowman quits

the unfiniſhed furrow; all ſcamper o'er the plain, multiplying as they go. Some armed with clubs or ſtaves, in leathern jerkins clad; others the flail or dung-fork weild, and in frocks of white or azure hue (ſuccinct for ſpeed) terrific ſeem. Each generous heart diſdains to lay behind. Now no diſtinction rules. The King, the Keiſer, the Lord, the Hind Fellows alike, and Competitors in the field. Now Huntſman lay in your Dogs well, and rather whiſper than bellow to them, till they undertake it, and go on full cry. Follow yourſelf at a due diſtance, and, as occaſion requires, recheat them; if you have not a horn call them two or three times together, ſoftly! ſoftly! for nought but general emulation reigns, Sire with Son, and Son with Sire contend; impetuous drive the Dogs. Beware the unexperienced Sportſman, whether on foot or horſeback, be ſure check his forwardneſs, many people think a chief part of hunting conſiſts in hollowing loud, and running, or riding hard,

hard, but they are miſtaken, and ſuch perſons, gentle or ſimple, muſt not be offended if the Huntſman ſwears at them, he has a right to do ſo. No tongue can be allowed but his, nor, at this time, no foot more forward than his own.

A cloſeneſs on the Dogs, it is well known, hurries them too much, being apt of themſelves, in their firſt heat of mettle, to over-ſhoot the Game. Many hours ſad ſport has happened from driving the Hounds too faſt, and confounding them with the hollowing of the company, or a noiſy blockhead of a Huntſman or Whipper-in.

As Puſs takes her circuit, judgment is often made of her gender. A Buck gives ſuſpicion by beating the hard paths, ſtoney highways, and taking a ring of a large extent in proportion to the compaſs of his feed and exerciſe, which may be gueſſed at, from the quantity of ground the Dogs trailed over. It being worthy of notice, that in the progreſs of the chace, a Hare will go over great part of the

the trailed land, and viſit her works of the preceding night and morning, unleſs ſhe takes endways, which after a ring or ſo, a Buck is apt to do; and loiter a vaſt way on freſh ground, without offering to return.

The Doe now and then doubles in a ſhort ſpace, and ſeldom holds an end, unleſs knit; or at the end of the ſeaſon has kindled. At ſuch times ſhe often runs forward, and ſcarce ever returns to her young, or eſcapes with life; being naturally weak and unfit for fatigue.

Yet notwithſtanding all that can be advanced, both ſexes regulate their conduct, much according to the ſeaſon and weather. After a rainy night, in a woody country, neither Buck nor Doe cares to keep the covert, the wet and drops that hang on the ſprays offend them; therefore they hold the highways or ſtoney lanes, for as the ſcent naturally lies ſtrong, they beat the roads that take the leaſt: Not that a Hare judges upon what ſoil the ſcent

ſcent lies weakeſt, it is her ears that chiefly direct her; for the Hounds being oftener at default on the hard paths than the turf, ſhe finds herſelf not ſo cloſely purſued, by being not much alarmed with the continued cry of the Dogs at her heels. The larger the cry, the more ſhe is terrified, and faſter ſhe ſpeeds, the certain effect of which is a heart broke ſooner than with a kennel, in number and goodneſs equal, that ſpent their tongues leſs free.

The ſame principle directs her to ſeek the covert in autumn, when the ground is dry, and wind bleak and cold at north or eaſt; then Puſs runs the paths that are covered with leaves, which are ſo continually falling and blowing about, the beſt Hounds can make but little of her; therefore her alarms being not of long continuance, but ſeldom and ſhort, ſhe reſts contented where ſhe is leaſt diſturbed.

If a Hare is trailing to form, on that depends great part of the ſucceſs of the hunt;

hunt; if ſhe is beat up, the firſt ring is a foundation for the ſucceeding paſtime, all the tucks and doubles ſhe afterwards makes, being, in a great meaſure, like the firſt.

According to the ground ſhe runs, the Fieldmen are to ſtation themſelves, no two are to ſtand prating together, let each purſue the method he thinks beſt for aſſiſting the Dogs, and his own diverſion. This is the time to give proof of good judgment.

If any perſons are lying back, or guarding the foil, I recommend ſtanding alone, quiet and private as poſſible. Above all, obſerve the wind. Whoever ſits in the wind, hundred to one he does not ſee the Hare, unleſs, at a great diſtance, ſhe drops back, or leaps aſide, for the reaſons before obſerved.

On ſight of the Hare, and ſhe happens to *quat*, ſilence will be an argument of great prudence; if the Dogs are at default, let them remain ſo, but if ſhe goes forward, and will ſpeed the ſingle view hollow,

hollow, if the Huntſman is within hearing, is allowable, in order to encourage and give him information what part ſhe bears for.

Beware, above all things, the vile practice of hollowing off the Hounds, to lay them in after a view; leaving unhaunted ground is the worſt thing can poſſibly happen. Beſides, it not only ſpoils the Dogs, and accuſtoms them at every fault to liſten for the hollow, but it is foul ſport and condemnable.

I hinted ſome time paſt, the Huntſman ſhould, by all means, go on the firſt ring, a deal depends on his knowledge of it in the courſe of Hunting, and as he follows, it cannot be amiſs to ſmooth here and there with his foot*, ſeveral parts

* Theſe letters, which ſeem calculated for ſome very ſtrongly incloſed country, agree with Xenophon's account of hunting in the mountainous and woody country of Greece; the horſe in both ſeem entirely to be uſeleſs.

of the circuit the Hare makes, eſpecially under gates, ſtiles, entrances, and endings of bye-lanes and highways; as often as time and the ſoil will admit.

By this means (if ſhe doubles) he will certainly prick her upon ſome of thoſe places again and again, and be of ſingular uſe to the Hounds, in drawing the hot foil. As he pricks her, let him bruſh it out, and re-ſmooth the places; this is the beſt method of treading a foil, and if done with judgment, no Hare that holds her foiling can eſcape, if the Huntſman is allowed to put it in practice.

It is a rule among Sportſmen, when a Hare runs the double, to ſet people to it backwards, in order to meet, and oblige her to take freſh ground, the conſequence of which often has been, that having met and hooped her, ſhe has redoubled back a few rod, and leaped off into ſome hedge or brake, and there *quat*, till the Dogs (confounded in the midſt of two

equal

equal burning heats) paſs her and come to the dead default. Now the judgment of the Huntſman, and ſtaunchneſs of the Hounds are to be approved, but theſe I ſhall reſerve for the next chapter.

LETTER VI.

Of the DEFAULT, *with ſome* CAUTIONS; *alſo of marvellous* TALES *of* HARES *at Default.*

THE chief conſiderations at default are, how long the Hare has been on foot, and how far the Hounds make it good? If ſhe has not been run half her time (as near as judgment can be made) the Huntſman muſt try expeditiouſly a wide circle, changing his Dogs hard and quick on the highways and ſo perſiſt in trying circle within circle, till he

he returns to the place the Dogs threw up at. On the other hand, if ſhe has been drove hard three parts of her time, or is near dead run, ſhe will only leap off a few rods, and *quat*, until one or other of the Dogs jumps upon her. Therefore, in ſuch caſe, the Huntſman needs only to try a ſmall circle, not nimble but ſlow and ſure, with great caution and care, for the compaſs being ſo little, he has no occaſion to draw ſo haſty about as if twice as large.

Take heed of talking too loud to the Hounds, I have heard ſome fellows in an harſh tone, inſtead of cheriſhing, rate and confound them; there are Dogs of ſhy fearful tempers that will ſcarce bear ſpeaking to. Give me a fellow of everlaſting patience and good temper, that does not hunt becauſe it is his buſineſs, but loves it naturally; one with a moderate voice and clear, that ſpeaks to an old Hound at default, quick, but not noiſy, and cheriſhes him nimbly, very often, and in a tone that enforces life

and

and courage, and compels him to ſtop perpetually.

Beware unhaunted ground, the inconveniency attending it, will be too apparent; avoid likewiſe the prevailing fault of leaving the recovery to endeavour to prick; it is not the Huntſman's buſineſs, but the company in the field; therefore he ſhould not, upon any account, attempt it. For whilſt he is myoping about, the Dogs throw up, not one in twenty has his noſe to the ground. If it happens to be a long dead default, pay ſome regard, Huntſman, to the tender-noſed babbling Dog you diſregarded in the morning; the delicacy of his noſtrils may be ſuſceptible of the ſcent a long time later than a ſtauncher Hound. You have ſaid, ſuch and ſuch a Dog deſerves hanging, he will open at nothing at all ſay you; but beware, my friend, if it is not the contrary, and owing to his ſuperior excellence of ſcenting. For as I already obſerved, a Hare that relieved at twelve at night, the tender Hound you condemn, will challenge cheerily

next morning, and in the preſent diſheartening caſe, if he does but open, it may encourage ſome ſtauncher Hound to run in and ſtoop; which, after a long tedious default, he would not otherwiſe do. I have known Huntſmen ſo diſtreſſed, to make their Dogs try and ſtoop (when it has been found which way the Hare has baulked them) that they have rung an old Hound's ears ſo cleverly, he has roared as if he had hit upon a burning ſcent, which has invited the pack together, and given them ſuch ſpirits, every Dog has ſtooped and tried it.

How numerous are the marvellous ſtories of Hares at default, tending chiefly to aggrandiſe their extenſive capacity and cunning. Some we read of, when hard preſſed, that have ſtarted freſh Hares, and *quatted* in their forms; others climbed upon quickſet hedges, and ran a long way upon the top, then leaped off, and baulked the Dogs. Some have made to furze-buſhes and leaped from buſh to buſh, like Squirrels from

ſpray

ſpray to ſpray, by which means the Hounds have been at irrecoverable defaults; becauſe I never experienced ſuch craft and policy, it would be wrong to deny the reality of it: But, faith, I ſmile to read or hear of Hares, that played ſuch pranks with deſign or on purpoſe.

I have ſeen inſtances of their dropping back, and ſeating again in the ſame forms, alſo of vaulting, running through houſes, creeping into ſheep-cotes, and in open countries, of holding the ſheep-blemiſh, and intermixing with the flock; but moſt of thoſe tricks are done when a Hare is harraſſed out of her ſenſes, and not by pure contrivance and deſign.

I will venture to affirm, if a Hare has any cunning at all, ſhe never ſhews it ſo much (being never more ſafe) than when ſhe continues the foil, or traverſes her ring over and over.

I laugh at the ſimpleton, that does not conſider it is a poor Hare's extraordinary fear, not the effect of judgment, that drives and provokes her to ſuch raſh and

danger-

dangerous attempts; and ſhall think the man ſhallow brained himſelf that contends for the contrary.

On recovery, judgment may be made from the time the Hare has run, and time ſhe has *quat*, how long ſhe may be likely to ſtand; the Huntſman is never to quit the default, whilſt day-light and weather permit: If the Hare is not killed or taken up, there is no good reaſon why it is not to be hit off, and it ſhould be a ſtanding maxim, that it is ever as eaſy to recover a loſt Hare as to ſtart a freſh one.

By a long *quat*, after a moderate hunt, a Hare often becomes ſtiff, therefore the Hunters ſhould preſs in upon the Dogs, eſpecially in covert; many Hares are eat up by the Hounds for want of forming ſome ſuch judgment, and then the ſimple Huntſman damns and ſwears at the Dogs; whereas his own deſert ſhould be a cudgel for his ſtupidity, the Hounds being entituled

tituled to every Hare they hunt; it is the chief reward of their labour and merit.

It is diverting to hear country fellows, on ſight of a Hare, cry out ſhe is all over in a ſweat, which is a monſtrous ignorance. The moſt indifferent Sportſmen know to the contrary, the leaſt proof not being to be found on the niceſt examination, no more than of a Dog or Cat's ſweating.

There is another prevailing notion*, very vulgar, much talked of, and leſs underſtood, that the longer a Hare has been hunted, the weaker the ſcent grows. I never found ſuch an alteration, and if any jndgment is allowed to be made from the behaviour of the Hounds, the old ſtaunch Dogs will be found to rate on, towards the concluſion of the hunt,

* See the former Eſſay, page 19.

with

with additional vigour, not from decay of ſcent, but the contrary; whence they become, every inch they go, more ſenſible of their near approach to the Hare, than all the Hunters in the field.

But ſhould it be maintained, the ſmell does really decreaſe, the more a Hare is preſſed, what can it be owing to? To lay it down as fact, without offering ſome reaſon, is certainly a very arbitrary determination. Is it becauſe ſhe is run out of wind? If that is allowed, Caſuiſts, who maintain Hounds hunt the foot, muſt give up the argument. For what reaſon can be aſſigned why a Hare's feet, immediately before her death, do not leave as ſtrong and equal ſcent as at ſtarting.

Hares, or other creatures, hard run, perform their inſpiration and expiration very quick, at leaſt ſix times in proportion for once they otherwiſe would, if cool and not urged. Now if ſix expira-

tions, under ſevere purſuit, are equal to one, when a Hare is juſt ſtarted, what difference can there be in the ſcent?

It may be alledged, the ſcent lies ſtronger at firſt, becauſe it makes its return from a full ſtomach, or that at ſtarting, the lungs having not ſuffered much diſtention, ſhe breathes freer, which by running low to the earth, intermixes better with the herbage. On the other hand, that a Hare long hunted runs high, and of courſe emits her breath farther off from the ſurface, therefore more liable to be ſooner ſeperated, and overcome by wind and air.

To the firſt part I anſwer, the faſter a Hare runs, the longer ſtretches; therefore the lower ſhe lies to the ground, but the farther the Hounds are behind; and her breath (though expired ever ſo free) remains a long time, in proportion to the diſtance, before the Dogs come up to enjoy it.

In

In the ſecond place, the hard hunted Hare makes her ſtretches ſhorter, which brings her body naturally more upright and high from the ſurface, and the ſcent hereby is more liable to be ſooner overcome by wind and weather. But, then, as ſhe breathes quick in proportion, as I juſt ſaid, and ſhortens her pace in a ſenſible degree, the Hounds, ſo much as ſhe ſhortens, ſo much do they haſten, being drawn on by an increaſing ſcent, even until Madam feels them at her heels.

Another reaſon, more natural and eaſy than either of the aforeſaid, why a Hare, towards the end of the hunt, is often difficult to be killed, is, that if ſhe holds her circuit, ſhe confines her works in a much ſhorter compaſs, doubles here and there over and over; ſhifts, redoubles, and tries all places for reſt and ſecurity, making a deal of foiling in a little ſpace, which variety of equal ſcent puzzles the Dogs exceedingly.

But

But this is diſcourſe the illiterate Huntſman troubles himſelf little about, his chief ſtudy and height of genius extending little farther than to that moſt deſirable excellence of hollowing loud, and winding the ſtreight horn, and talking to his Dogs in an unintelligible jargon, that a Hottentot would bluſh to be maſter of.

So much for Hare-hunting. If you meet with any of my ſentiments that agree with your own, or that give the leaſt ſatisfactory information, I am ſatisfied. You know I live in the woodland country, and write like ſuch a one; my Huntſman is obliged to be always on foot, and a nimble one. The properties requiſite to make a good one, are, as before is hinted, everlaſting patience, indefatigableneſs, a good heel, tolerable muſical voice, and a natural love for Hounds and Hunting. Lying tongues the honeſteſt carry, but if they do not impoſe on their

Maſters

Maſters it may be pardoned. Hare-hunting is a fine recreation, and, for innumerable reaſons, worthy of being followed, but often ſuch hard exerciſe on foot, that were boys put apprentice to it, not one in fifty would ſerve out his time.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 21 of Preface, 2d note. For Ατειρον, read Απειρον.
25 of the Work, line 1. For *suffer*, read *suffered*.
47, line 9. For *hallowings*, read *hollowings*.
62, line 10. Omit *no*
64, line 19. For *smith*, read *smooth*.
76, line 14. For *ulcerate*, read *ulcerated*.
15. There *are*, read there *is*.
Note, line 5. *Xenoxhon*, read *Xenophon*.
79, line 19. For *dependance*, read *dependence*.
81, line 8. After *and at*, add *the*.
82, line 19. For *the*, read *they*.
83, line 13. For *possitive*, read *positive*
95, line 11. For *subsistance*, read *subsistence*.
103, line 14. *The three*, omit *The*
109, line 11. For *Collegues*, read *Colleague*.
112, line 6, For *oftenefs*, read *oftenest*.
117, line 11, For *has* happened, read *have* happened.
132, line 14, For *seperated*, read *separated*.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

HUNTING EXCURSIONS

OF

ASOPH UL DOULAH,

Viſier of the Mogul Empire, and Nabob of Oude.

By WILLIAM BLANE, Eſq;
Who attended in theſe Excurſions in the Years 1785 and 1786.

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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

HUNTING EXCURSIONS

OF

ASOPH UL DOULAH.

THE Vizier always ſets out upon his annual hunting party as ſoon as the cold ſeaſon is well ſet in; that is, about the beginning of December; and he ſtays out till the heats, about the beginning of March, force him back again. During this time, he generally makes a circuit of country from four to ſix hundred miles always bending his courſe towards the ſkirts of the Northern Mountains, where

the country, being wild and uncultivated, is the moſt proper for game.

When he marches, he takes with him, not only his houſehold and Zenana, but all his Court, and a great part of the inhabitants of his capital. Beſides the immediate attendants about his perſon, in the various capacities of Rhidmitgars, Fraſhes, Chobdars, Harcaras, Mewatics, &c. which may amount to about two thouſand, he is attended in camp by five or ſix hundred horſe, and ſeveral battalions of regular ſepoys, with their field-pieces. He takes with him about four or five hundred elephants; of theſe ſome are broke in for riding, ſome for fighting, ſome carry baggage, and the reſt are reſerved for clearing the jungles and foreſts of the game: of the firſt kind, there are always twenty or thirty ready capariſoned, with *Howdahs* and *Amarys*, that attend cloſe behind the one he rides upon himſelf, that he may change occaſionally to any of them he likes; or he ſometimes permits ſome of his attendants

to

to ride upon them. He has with him about five or ſix hundred ſumpter horſes, a great many of which are always led ready ſaddled near him; many of them are beautiful Perſian horſes, and ſome of them of the Arabian breed; but he ſeldom rides any of them. Of wheel carriages, there are a great many of the country faſhion drawn by bullocks, principally for the accommodation of the women; beſides which, he has with him a couple of Engliſh chaiſes, a buggy or two, and ſometimes a chariot; but all theſe, like the horſes, are merely for ſhow, and never uſed; indeed, he ſeldom uſes any other conveyance but an elephant, or ſometimes, when fatigued or indiſpoſed, a palanquin, of which ſeveral attend him.

The arms he carries with him are a vaſt number of matchlocks—a great many Engliſh pieces of various kinds—piſtols (of which he is very fond), a great number, perhaps forty or fifty pairs—bows and arrows—beſides ſwords, ſabres, and daggers innumerable.

numerable. One or more of all theſe different kinds of arms he generally has upon the elephant with him, and a great many more are carried in readineſs by his attendants.

The animals he carries for ſport are dogs, principally greyhounds, of which he has about three hundred—hawks, of various kinds, at leaſt two hundred—a few trained leopards, called *Cheetahs*, for catching deer—and to this liſt I may add a great many markſmen, whoſe profeſſion is to ſhoot deer—and fowlers who provide game; for there are none of the natives of India who have any idea of ſhooting game with ſmall ſhot, or of hunting with ſlow hounds. He is alſo furniſhed with nets of various kinds, ſome for quail, and others very large, for fiſhing, which are carried along with him upon elephants, attended by fiſhermen, ſo as to be always ready to be thrown into any river or lake he may meet with on the march.

Beſides this catalogue for the ſport, he carries with him every article of luxury or pleaſure; even ice is tranſported along with him to cool his water, and make ices; and a great many carts are loaded with the Ganges water, which is eſteemed the beſt and lighteſt in India, for his drink. The fruits of the ſeaſon, and freſh vegetables, are ſent to him daily from his gardens to whatever diſtance he may go, by laid bearers, ſtationed upon the road at the diſtance of every ten miles, and in this manner convey whatever is ſent by them at the rate of four miles an hour, night and day. Beſides the fighting elephants, which I have mentioned, he has with him fighting antelopes, fighting buffaloes, and fighting rams, in great numbers: and laſtly, of the feathered kind (beſides hawks), he carries with him ſeveral hundred pigeons, ſome fighting cocks, and an endleſs variety of nightingales, parrots, minos, &c. all of which are carried along with his tents.

What I have hitherto enumerated are the appendages of the Nabob perſonally;

beſides which, there is a large public Bazar, or, in other words, a moving town, attends his camp, conſiſting of ſhopkeepers and artificers of all kinds, money-changers, dancing women, &c. &c.; ſo that, upon the moſt moderate calculation, the number of ſouls in his camp cannot be reckoned at leſs than twenty thouſand.

There are generally about twenty or thirty of the gentlemen of his Court, who attend him on his hunting parties, and are the companions of his ſports and pleaſures. They are principally his own relations in different degrees of conſanguinity; and ſuch as are not related to him, are of the old reſpectable families of Hindoſtan, who either have Jaghires, or are otherwiſe ſupported by the Nabob: all of theſe are obliged to keep a ſmall eſtabliſhment of elephants for the ſake of attending the Nabob; beſides horſes, a palanquin, &c.

The Nabob, and all the gentlemen of his camp, are provided with double ſets of tents and camp equipage, which are always

ſent

ſent on the day before to the place whither he intends going, which is generally about eight or ten miles in whatever direction he expects moſt game; ſo that by the time he has finiſhed his ſport in the morning, he finds the whole camp ready pitched for his reception.

His Highneſs always riſes before day-break, and after uſing the hot bath, he eats an Engliſh breakfaſt of tea and toaſt, which is generally over by the time the day is well broke. He then mounts his elephant, attended by all his houſehold and *Swary*, and preceded by ſome muſicians on horſeback, ſinging, and playing on muſical inſtruments. He proceeds forwards, and is preſently joined, from the different quarters of the camp, by the gentlemen of his Court, who having paid their reſpects, fall in upon their elephants on each ſide of, or behind, the Nabob's, ſo as to form a regular moving Court or Durbar; and in this manner they march on converſing together, and looking out for game. A great many dogs are led before, and are conſtantly picking up hares,

foxes, jackalls, and ſometimes deer. The hawks are alſo carried immediately before the elephants, and are let fly at whatever game is ſprung for them, which generally conſiſts of partridges, in great numbers and varieties, quails, buſtards, and different kinds of herons, which laſt give excellent ſport with the falcons, or ſharp-winged hawks. The Nabob takes great pains in ranging the elephants in a regular line, which is very extenſive, and by proceeding in this manner no game can eſcape. The horſe are generally at a little diſtance upon the wings, but ſmall parties of three or four horſemen are placed in the intervals of, or before the elephants, in order to ride after the hawks, and aſſiſt the dogs when looſed at deer; or very often the horſemen run down what we call the *hog-deer*, without any dogs. Wild boars are ſometimes ſtarted, and are either ſhot or run down by the dogs and horſemen.

When intelligence is brought of a tyger, it is matter of great joy, as that is conſidered as the principal ſport, and all the

reſt only occaſional to fill up the time. Preparations are inſtantly made for purſuing him, which is done by aſſembling all the elephants, with as many people as can conveniently go upon their backs, and leaving all the reſt, whether on foot or on horſeback, behind. The elephants are then formed into a line, and proceed forward regularly; the Nabob and all his attendants having their fire-arms in readineſs. The cover, in which the tyger is moſt frequently found, is long graſs, or reeds ſo high as often to reach above the elephants, and it is very difficult to find him in ſuch a place, as he either endeavours to ſteal off, or lies ſo cloſe that he cannot be rouſed till the elephants are almoſt upon him. He then roars and ſkulks away, but is ſhot at as ſoon as he can be ſeen; and it is generally contrived, in compliment to the Nabob, that he ſhall have the firſt ſhot at him. If he is not diſabled, he continues ſkulking away, the line of elephants following him, and the Nabob and others ſhooting at him as often as he can be ſeen, till he falls.

Sometimes, when he can be traced to a particular ſpot where he couches, the elephants are formed into a circle round him, and in that caſe, when he is rouſed, he generally attacks the elephant that is neareſt to him, by ſpringing upon him with a dreadful roar, and biting at, or tearing him with his claws: but in this caſe, from his being obliged to ſhew himſelf, he is ſoon diſpatched by the number of ſhots aimed at him; for the greateſt difficulty is to rouſe him, and get a fair view of him. The elephants all this time are dreadfully frightened, ſhrieking and roaring in a manner particularly expreſſive of their fear: and this they begin as ſoon as they ſmell him, or hear him growl, and generally endeavour to turn back from the place where the tyger is: ſome of them, however, but very few, are bold enough to be driven up to attack him, which they do by curling the trunk cloſe up under the mouth, and then charging the tyger with their tuſks; or they endeavour to preſs him to death by falling on him with their knees, or treading him

under

under their feet. If one tyger is killed, it is conſidered as a good day's ſport; but ſometimes two or three are killed in one day, or even more, if they meet with a female and her cubs. The Nabob then proceeds towards his tents upon the new ground, ſo that every day is both a marching day and a day of ſport; or ſometimes he halts for a day or two upon a place that he likes, but not often. When he gets to his tents, which is generally about eleven or twelve o'clock, he dines, and goes to ſleep for an hour or two. In the afternoon he mounts his elephant again, and takes a circuit about the ſkirts of the camp, with the dogs and hawks; or ſometimes amuſes himſelf with an elephant fight, with ſhooting at a mark, or ſuch like amuſements; and this courſe he repeats every day infallibly during the whole of the party.

The other principal objects of the Nabob's ſport are, wild elephants, buffaloes, and rhinoceros.

I was

I was preſent two years ago at the chace of a wild elephant of prodigious ſize and ſtrength. The plan firſt followed, was to endeavour to take him alive by the aſſiſtance of the tame elephants, who try to ſurround him, whilſt he was kept at bay by fire-works, ſuch as crackers, porte-fires, &c. but he always got off from them, notwithſtanding the drivers upon ſome of the tame elephants got ſo near as to throw noozes of very ſtrong ropes over his head, and endeavoured to detain him by faſtening them round trees, but he ſnapped them like packthread, and held on his way towards the foreſt. The Nabob then ordered ſome of the ſtrongeſt and moſt furious of his fighting elephants to be brought up to him. As ſoon as one of them came near him, he turned and charged him with dreadful fury; ſo much ſo, that in the ſtruggle with one of them, he broke one of his tuſks by the middle, and the broken piece (which was upwards of two inches in diameter, of ſolid ivory) flew up in the air ſeveral yards above their heads. Having repelled the attacks of the

fighting

fighting elephants, he purſued his way with a ſlow and ſullen pace towards his cover. The Nabob then ſeeing no poſſibility of taking him alive, gave orders for killing him. An inceſſant fire from match-locks was immediately commenced upon him from all quarters, but with little effect, for he twice turned round and charged the party, In one of theſe charges he ſtruck obliquely upon the elephant which the * Prince rode, and threw him on his ſide, but fortunately paſſed on without offering farther injury to him. The Prince, by laying hold of the Howdah, kept himſelf in his ſeat, but the ſervant he had behind, and every thing he had with him on the Howdah, was thrown off to a great diſtance. At laſt, our griſly enemy was overpowered by the number of bullets ſhowered upon him from all ſides, and he fell dead, after having received, as was computed, upwards of one thouſand

* This Prince was the Shaw Zadah eldeſt ſon to the Great Mogul, who had at this time taken refuge with the Vizier from the perſecution of his father's miniſters.

balls

balls in his body: he had carried us a chace of eight or ten miles after him, and afforded us ſport from morning till twelve o'clock. The following year the Nabob took fifteen wild elephants at once. They had wandered up a narrow valley in the mountains, which was terminated by inacceſſible precipices, and when they had got to the end of it, the country people threw up a ſtrong rampart of trees, ſtones, earth, &c. acroſs the valley behind them, and confined them in it. After having been much reduced by hunger, they were all taken alive, by letting in the tame elephants amongſt them.

The hunting the wild buffaloe is alſo performed by ſhooting him from elephants; but he runs ſo faſt that it is very difficult to get up with him, and as there are no dogs who will attack him, the horſemen are ſent after him to endeavour to ſtop or turn him, but they dare not venture near, as he runs at them, and can eaſily toſs a horſe with his horns, if he comes within his reach: but when he can by any means be retarded, ſo

as

as to let the elephants come up, he is ſoon diſpatched by the match-lock: ſome of the buffaloes are of prodigious ſize and ſtrength, and have an uncommonly wild and furious look, and they are ſo formidable in the jungles, that it is ſaid even the largeſt royal tyger never ventures to attack them.

I have never ſeen the rhinoceros hunted, although there are many of them on the route the Nabob goes; but they generally keep to the thick foreſts where it is impoſſible to follow them. When they can be got at, they are purſued upon elephants and ſhot; but it is both more difficult and dangerous than any other ſport, for even the elephant is not ſafe againſt him; for if he charges an elephant and rips him with his horn, he generally kills him on the ſpot; and except his eyes or temples, and a ſmall part of his breaſt before the ſhoulder, he is invulnerable to the largeſt muſquet ball in every other part of his body.

When the Prince is with the Nabob upon the party, the etiquette obſerved in regard to

 him,

him, is this: as ſoon as the Nabob is mounted, he goes in front of the Prince's tent, and there waits till he is ready; as ſoon as his Royal Highneſs comes out of his tent, the Vizier pays his obeiſance by making his elephant kneel down, and then makes three *ſalams* to him. The Prince is then mounted upon his elephant, which is made to advance about eight or ten paces in front of the Nabob and the reſt of the party, and in that ſtation he marches on. When they arrive at the new camp, the Nabob attends him to the door of his tent, and then takes his leave; and this form he repeats regularly twice every day.

As you may be curious to know how I diſpoſe of myſelf in the party, I ſhall briefly mention it. I generally have two or three elephants of my own well capariſoned, and a double ſet of tents, one of which is always ſent on with the Nabob's, ſo that I am entirely independent in reſpect to my equipage; and as both the Perſian and Indoſtan languages are familiar to me, I mix a good deal in converſation with

with the Nabob and the gentlemen about him, and conform myſelf as much as poſſible to their manners and cuſtoms; and although I am deſirous of being conſidered entirely on an equal footing with the native gentlemen about the court, yet the Vizier generally ſhews me particular marks of attention, by making me ride cloſe to himſelf.

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Amary.—The machine faſtened upon the back of the elephant for riding in. It is generally made of wood, painted and gilded. It is of a ſquare form, with ledges about eight inches high, and in two diviſions, the largeſt before, and a ſmall one behind for a ſervant; the firſt diviſion is from three to four feet wide, with cuſhions and bedding in it; and the whole is covered by a canopy, ſupported with eight ſtandards, and covered with Engliſh broad cloth, either plain or embroidered.

Howdah.

Howdah.—The ſame as an amary, but without a canopy.

Rhidmitgar.—A footman, or valet-de chambre.

Harcara.—A ſervant employed for meſſages, and to procure intelligence.

Chobdar.—A ſervant who carries a ſilver mace in front of the proceſſion, who attends at the door to announce ſtrangers and viſitors, and who is ſent upon meſſages of ceremony.

Mewatics.—A ſect of Hindoſtan ſoldiers, principally employed as guards.

Fraſhes.—Servants whoſe buſineſs is to pitch tents in the field, and in the houſe to ſpread the carpets, &c. and keep the apartments clean.

Zenanah.—The Seraglio.

Jungle.—Deſert and uncultivated places, whether covered with long graſs or reeds, or with bruſh-wood, or foreſts.

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